Minutes of the

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches

Online, 30 May-2 June 2022

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1. Welcome – 30 May 2022

The moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom (Anglican Church of Kenya), warmly greeted the executive committee members. On behalf of the leadership she welcomed the committee to this stop along, interesting and exciting journey. She asked Rev. Karl Johnson (Jamaica Baptist Union) to lead the group in an opening prayer.

Rev. Johnson noted that some of the members had had a full day, some were just starting their day, and some were in the middle of a busy day. He recalled that in the Western tradition Ascension had been celebrated the previous day. He read Hebrews 2:14-18 and led the group in quiet reflection and prayer.

Mr Doug Chial, director, general secretariat, presented a brief overview of the agenda and the conduct of meetings for the electronic meeting. The meeting would address the usual matters for decision in the first meeting of the executive committee each year, e.g. programme activity reports and accounts from the previous year. There would be a plenary session on the first day, sub-committee meetings for the subsequent two days and then a final decision plenary on the last day.

2. Opening Actions

The moderator led a decision session. Apologies were noted and quorum was established with 20 members participating in the electronic meeting.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted by consensus.

The minutes of the following meetings were approved by consensus:
- Executive Committee Minutes, November 2021
- Executive Committee Decisions, 4 January 2022
- Executive Committee Minutes, 8 February 2022

The record of the decisions taken by the executive committee in May 2022 through electronic means was approved by consensus.

3. Moderator's Remarks and Report of the Acting General Secretary

3.1 Moderator's Remarks

The meeting moved to a hearing session. The moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom's remarks are printed below in full.

I will basically share with you thoughts from the recent visits of solidarity and engagement. First, I want to thank the executive committee very, very sincerely for your hard work.

Once again, may I reiterate a warm welcome to all of us. I really look forward to meeting face-to-face in June. This of course is basically an online meeting – and I'm grateful. As I was reflecting about this meeting, it just dawned in my mind that, as we move toward the

assembly, we are perhaps in our last lap of our pilgrimage since Busan. To us, the 11th assembly comes at a time when a number of things have changed globally, nationally and even regionally. We will be hearing that also from the public issues committee.

Normally as runners do the last lap, they have three things in mind. One is they tend to focus on the pacesetters because their pacesetters enable them to finish. Two, they normally try to keep their energy for the last lap. The third thing is, if their pacesetters happen to overdo it, then they really get exhausted and sometimes the last lap is a disaster! Some don't finish, some finish, and some complete the race fairly strong. So as we do our last lap, we need to see who have been our pacesetters on a number of issues. We have commissions, we have programmes and, indeed, how do we complete that part of the pilgrimage as we hand over to the next team? I think sometimes we get gripped by a spirit of fear and inaction. Fear is a very powerful issue and I was surprised that, in the Bible, 365 times fear is mentioned! That is to show how critical it is in the life of any human being.

Every day, I have to wrestle with the spirit of fear. And so we are reminded in this last lap not to be gripped by fear. There are many issues that could bring fear and so let us remember that fear is not God's plan for us. We will overcome. Personally I was thinking some of us may be anxious, even afraid, of how the central committee will decide, whether we have enough mature ecumenists and so forth and so on. But also the fear even that the global challenges we face, and these are challenges that are calling us as an ecumenical movement and as a council to order, which in my view help make the assembly theme even more relevant, that Christ's love moves us to reconciliation and unity. The letter of James talks about trials and temptations, and that in times of trials and temptations, we should not be afraid. It is through trials and temptations that we actually can get new energy that we can be more strategic and renewed. The whole notion of endurance becomes key in times of trials and temptations.

We have just talked a bit about the impact of COVID. We continue to reflect and share stories of resilience by communities and churches. We continue to share hope, aware of course of the spiritual, economic, and social challenges that the pandemic has actually raised, has created in many countries. We can remember people who have lost loved ones, some of them who are able to give farewells and some not. We remember many whose dignity has been devalued, the separation of families, the conflicts, the increased violence all over the place. And yet we celebrate the fact that the church of Christ, the Christian community has been there, compassionate for people in times of trouble. So we have seen new forms of witness to the gospel. As we travelled during this pilgrimage of justice in Italy, what we saw was many, many thousands of people on the streets. For me, and for us as a team, it was an indication that people are tired of being locked away. People wanted fellowship. Restaurants were packed. It was an interesting sign for me. They still insist on masks, wearing masks of course, but it was a very, very moving experience that the streets were full again. It is a sign of that compassion and love that people want to share with one another.

Our visit to Sudan was another area where we saw the meaning of solidarity. The church of Sudan in the north is a minority. But at the same time, during our visit in April, together with the All Africa Conference of Churches, I found two things: 1) the need to constantly offer solidarity and a ministry of presence to the vulnerable, and 2) that sometimes the minority group is constantly faced with degradation. We were also moved by the fact that the churches

in a minority status look at the council as a platform where they can meet, engage, and exchange. And so the whole solidarity, accompaniment, ministry of presence became so critical in this particular engagement. And I think many small communities actually look forward to our accompanying them in different contexts.

The visit to Italy was focused on migrants and refugees, and we saw the challenge of welcoming and receiving the migrant, the stranger. This Pilgrim Team Visit was encouraged by the way in which the church in Italy is offering compassion and support to these people. The ministry of the interior also has a much more positive approach, particularly for unaccompanied children. A couple of things came out critically, that in increasingly multi-faith, multicultural and multi-religious areas, the church needs to wrestle with transitions from mono-mono-mono to multi-multi-multi. The life of the church and the witness of the church is enhanced by these migrants. It is growing, it is livelier as they participate and engage in the life of the church in their new home.

Thirdly, sometimes migrants also need to feel that, in their new home, they can also speak and read the Bible in their own language. And so we saw a number of such small congregations. But the tragedy is inasmuch as such beautiful places, the beauty of the place was the brutality of death. Many, many die. And while the migrants and refugees separate from the community, in death they are united in the cemetery. The whole area of compassion and love is really cherished by these men and women, and children, and we are grateful to the church and the communities for offering their churches, and spaces to these people.

You will recollect we had a big workshop here at the beginning of this migration. Just listening to the various constituencies of migrants to the church, particularly that of member churches of the WCC, we need to rethink programmatically the place of migrants and refugees. It is a big issue. Churches in Germany have also invited us to consider migration as one of the critical issues informing the choice of Karlsruhe.

Climate justice of course remains a major concern. Some of these people were refugees because their countries are no longer sustainable. They are drying up every day, or they have a challenge getting clean water. As we walk together toward the assembly, what does economic justice mean? What does it mean when the military arms are now getting warm so they can be used and tested – and yet military arms are the cause of part of our economic injustice? Caring for creation is something that has come up. We have been working on it and we do need to see how it has come through the programmes and the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

Another issue is food security – food and the human right to food remains. When we talk about the Ukraine-Russia war we probably do not even imagine that countries in Africa are affected because they either cannot access wheat or because there is no more wheat available. When they can't access wheat because of the conflict, it's really difficult.

Finally, we just came from the *Katholikentag* in Stuttgart. Our participation was necessary. There are a couple of things that we picked up that we will be discussing. One of the things that crossed our minds was how our welcoming team will be able to perform and that there will be more people interested in knowing about the life and the work of the church and

people in Germany. Might it be possible to think of a tent where the information is available on a consistent basis?

Brothers and sisters, we could share a lot but you also have a lot to share with us! Our theme is very relevant in all programmatic and thematic areas. It is actually divine and people say yes, how do we concretize the theme so it does not remain at the academic top level? How do we really work for reconciliation in all our regions? We are challenged that our worship in Karlsruhe must revive, renew and re-energize our spirituality. We are challenged not just to have plenaries but to ask ourselves, what does Christ's love mean today? I look forward to hearing what is transpiring in your own churches and contexts. God bless us. Thank you.

3.2 Report of the Acting General Secretary

The report of Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca, acting general secretary, is printed below in full.

Introduction

It is with humble gratitude that I want to express my deep appreciation to the leadership of the central committee for their daily accompaniment and direction. Their leadership during challenging times makes a difference.

As we approach the assembly, I want to recognize Bishop Petra for her leadership as co-moderator of the host committee. She has challenged us to amplify our collaboration and I am thankful for her commitment to a successful assembly.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the staff leadership group, to the entire WCC staff, to you the members of our governing bodies as well as to our member churches for the strong and ongoing commitment. I am deeply encouraged and inspired by such powerful dedication.

We continue to publish monthly accountability reports, keeping you informed about daily work and operations. In this report, I want to highlight few things which were already mentioned in the accountability reports you have received: 1) the WCC response to the conflict in Ukraine, 2) the upcoming central committee, 3) our progress in preparing the assembly, 4) our financial situation and 5) a word about this meeting.

Conflict in Ukraine

When the executive and central committee met in February, the conflict in Ukraine had not yet broken. All situations of conflict and war are of great concern to the fellowship. This situation has special implications for the fellowship of member churches.

From the beginning, the WCC has condemned the war, has called for an immediate end to armed hostilities and appealed for an immediate end to indiscriminate attacks with an escalating impact on civilians in Ukraine. The WCC has been in the focus of media since day one of the war and until now more than 4,500 articles mentioning the role of the WCC have been published.

WCC response has been consistent in:

- denouncing violence as solution to conflict;
- calling for the protection of innocent and vulnerable people;
- maintaining contact and dialogue with the churches in Russia and Ukraine;
- engaging churches from the neighbouring countries in round table dialogue (at the end of March we had the first round table meeting and on 10 June we will have the second roundtable meeting);
- advocating for humanitarian assistance with visible expressions of accompaniment (together with ACT Alliance a WCC team has visited Ukrainian refugees entering Europe through Hungary and Romania and recently they have returned from a humanitarian visit in Russia meeting the Ukrainian refugees in Russia).

At every step, it has been my prayer that the WCC can provide a space for dialogue; for listening and caring for one another; and for just peace and reconciliation. We are and should continue to be alternative to geo-political solutions that seek to deepen divisions.

Central Committee

The central committee meets in two weeks for the first time in four years. It will be a great reunion with over 135 members and substitutes attending. There are no pandemic-related restrictions for meeting in Geneva. However, we are planning cautiously with tables that allow more distance, onsite medical care; and masks and sanitation protocols are in place.

It will not be an ordinary meeting. I will say more about the agenda in the overview of matters for decision. I believe we must be ready to manage tense discussions and a variety of outcomes.

We have heard some individual voices calling for the suspension of the Russian Orthodox Church from the WCC. Such proposal may be brought forward. If so, it will be a difficult discussion.

I have tried to answer to this question and other challenging matters in a rather lengthy interview, which was shared with you. I went back and made analysis on how our predecessors dealt with such concerns when they were confronted with similar issues, including the participation of churches during the Cold War, the issue of apartheid in South Africa, the more recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. The conclusion was clear – the WCC has never suspended a church for theological reasons – even in the case of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa during apartheid, in which the church itself withdrew from the WCC.

If a church distances itself from the WCC for theological reasons, this is different (as, for example, in the case of the Kimbanguist Church).

Despite difference and divergences, WCC has been during all these years since its foundations an open platform of encounter and dialogue and made efforts to bring and engage churches in dialogue, not to divide and disperse. Is our fellowship strong enough to maintain and continue the reason and goal that our predecessors envisaged for the WCC?

I pray for a spirit of togetherness and fellowship, in which the members can speak, listen, discuss and discern God's will with honesty, trusting that God is changing hearts and attitudes and leads his Churches to the path of just peace, reconciliation and love.

Assembly

The assembly is around the corner and we are intensifying communication with participants and cooperation with the host churches. This is an assembly of resilience. We continue planning and revising in response to all that is happening in the world and in the life of the churches.

For two years, we have been monitoring the impact of the pandemic. The pandemic no longer stands in our way. Entry requirements and meeting restrictions are manageable. The leadership of the central committee and host committee met ten days ago and affirmed the need to move from monitoring to implementing. We enter a new phase of collaboration in which I will personally commit myself to convene weekly meetings with the assembly office, Karlsruhe office and the EKD to help address any pending issues.

We want to have an assembly of quality.

Until now, we had two pre-assembly meetings:

1. The online meeting of Specialized Ministries held in March strongly reaffirmed that the "commitment to unity and sharing cannot be limited to the life of the churches and their wellbeing. It is a calling to serve in the world, participating in God's mission of healing and reconciliation, and of lifting up signs of hope, announcing by word and deed God's reign, God's justice and peace."
2. Earlier this month the Inter-Orthodox Pre-Assembly took place in Cyprus. The participants referred to it as a historical meeting. Fifty participants representing both Eastern and Oriental Orthodox families have participated. Despite divisions and tensions within the two families, all participated with a spirit of dialogue, love and communion. All prayed together, took part actively in discussions and in the drafting of the final report and communique. The focus was on the assembly preparations and the theological input is an important asset as we prepare for the Assembly.

   Particular attention was also given to discussing some sensitive issues of our time, which may require at the Assembly a clear and articulate Orthodox input and contribution, such as Israel/Palestine, human sexuality, the war in Ukraine. A special hearing was organised with the delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church and sincere, honest and open discussions took place. The final communique, which condemns the war and violence, asking for peace and reconciliation, was agreed by consensus by all.

I want to say a word here also about the WCC Syria project. Following the central committee, a meeting with representatives of the WCC member churches from Syria was organised in Bossey, and our moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom attended as well. The agreement was that the Syria programme continues with the full participation of the churches in Syria and by listening to their concerns and expectations. The invitation to visit Syria as soon as possible but before the assembly was renewed and we are in the process of organising it in the near future.

Finances
From a financial perspective, I am happy to report that 2021 was strong year. We transferred membership contributions of CHF 0.5 million to the assembly fund and closed the general reserves with an increase of almost CHF 0.5 million. We can all be grateful to the member churches, ecumenical partners and others for contributions income of CHF 16.1 million, being CHF 1.2 million higher than in 2020.

The updated financial forecast for the 11th Assembly projects CHF 14.2 million in total income and available funds, over the years 2018-2023, increased from the budget of CHF 13.8 million approved in November 2021. With the contingency of CHF 0.6 million retained in the forecast, there is reasonable assurance the assembly can be managed within the available funds. We express gratitude to the host churches for the focused collaboration and contributions, as well as to the German Federal Foreign Office.

This year, there will be adverse impact on our budget, estimated at CHF 500,000, due to the depreciation of the Euro against the Swiss franc. We will adjust accordingly.

Green Village
We are grateful to be moving forward with the decision, together with Implenia, to accept the revised binding offer for Kyoto from Swiss Life. We have a proposed date of signature at the notary's office in mid-June. We are cautious. The sale is not complete until all documents are signed. We move forward in hope, with an aim of target net proceeds of CHF 23 million for the WCC before tax.

Leadership Staff Recruitment
Following the decision of the executive committee in November 2021, we are now finalizing the interviews of four staff leadership positions, including programme director for Unity and Mission, programme director for Public Witness and Diakonia, director of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order, and director of the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. We had more applications than expected – many of them very strong candidates. The names selected and submitted to you will be strong persons that could lead the WCC in future. The names of the four new staff selected will be submitted to you for appointment during the in person meeting of the executive committee on the 14 June.

Agenda
The agenda of this meeting addresses the regular business of the executive committee such as the financial and programmatic reports from last year. There are updates on programmatic work, including the Syria project, human sexuality and overcoming racism. The last programme reports to the assembly are ready. The meeting will give direction for the final preparations of the central committee and further guidance for the assembly.

I want to end my report expressing gratitude to the members of the executive committee. Every one of you has served beyond the call of duty. The past two years would have been difficult without your dedication to the fellowship of member churches. It is an honour to serve with you, the leadership of the central committee and the WCC staff in strengthening the fellowship of member churches to fulfil their common calling to the glory of the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thank you, moderator. Thanks to all for listening.

3.3 Discussion and Sharing

The moderator invited comments from the members and also asked them to share from their contexts and churches.

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa) thanked the moderator and acting general secretary for their reports. He shared that in Nigeria the previous day the primate of the Methodist Church Nigeria and others had been kidnapped. The AACC had asked for prayers.

He continued saying that this week there would be a historical meeting of the United Nations Environmental Programme in Stockholm marking 50 years since the 1972 UN Conference on the Environment. This was a good opportunity for WCC to present its unique voice on reconciliation with creation which would be highlighted in the assembly deliberations. It would be helpful to see the voice of WCC's leadership speaking about the future of the planet and climate justice.

Rev. Karin van den Broeke (Protestant Church in the Netherlands) was grateful for the reports. She said that there were many people in the Netherlands looking forward to the assembly. The leadership team of the Protestant church was aware that it was a challenging time to have an assembly. There was worry, given the situation in Ukraine, about what the assembly would bring as we speak about unity and reconciliation. It would be important for the central committee to prepare the assembly in a very good way.

Dr Abuom referred back to consensus ethos, the importance of listening to others and discerning God's will.

Rev. Dr Festus Ambe Asana (Presbyterian Church in Cameroon) shared that he was always personally encouraged by the ecumenical symbol of the boat with the cross and that he always takes it on his travels. He thanked the leadership of WCC for the visit to Cameroon. Courage was needed for the visit. Sometimes when there are many upheavals, e.g. Ukraine, so-called smaller conflicts were often forgotten. Those visits were more encouraging than the organizers imagine. The situation unfortunately remained largely the same. There was still conflict between the freedom fighters of the English-speaking region and the military. There were daily deaths. Thousands were in exile and internally displaced. The church was playing an important role in providing aid, moral and spiritual support. In the midst of all these difficulties churches were still holding services. It was the school system and the children that were suffering most. For six years, some children had not gone to school, and this added to the violence. He hoped that one day reconciliation would come. The churches were playing their role and were seen as a ray of hope. He prayed that WCC would continue standing by those who are in difficulties.

The moderator asked the vice-moderator, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson (United Methodist Church), to offer a prayer for the situations in Nigeria and in Cameroon. Bishop Swenson also shared about the gun violence in the United States that week where 19 primary school students and two teachers were killed. She led the group in a prayer.

Ms Emily Jane Evans (Uniting Church in Australia) felt that it was timely that this meeting was held now. In Australia a new prime minister was just elected and there was a sense of hope and optimism in relationships with first peoples and on climate change. The current week in Australia was Reconciliation Week with many events being organized. Reconciliation between first and second peoples in Australia remained a challenge for the country. There was a push for the "Statement from the Heart" which would look at a constitutional referendum for creating an indigenous voice in the governing process. In this context an important ecumenical and interfaith statement was being issued. This was timely with the assembly taking place in a couple of months.

Bishop Simo Peura (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) thanked the moderator and the acting general secretary for their reports. He said that this was the first time for him to experience a war so close. This helped to understand other situations better. He recalled the founding of the WCC in 1948 and the war that marked this event. It was a strange situation for the church leaders as they could not do anything. To avoid such situations in the future it was clear that the WCC was needed. It was important to talk about reconciliation but he felt that we also had to speak about repentance.

Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev (Russian Orthodox Church [Moscow Patriarchate]) echoed thanks to the moderator and the acting general secretary. He had participated in the Orthodox pre-assembly meeting and thanked the WCC and the acting general secretary for the wisdom in organizing this meeting. It took place in difficult time of military conflicts and serious disagreements in the Eastern Orthodox family. He shared that the construction of the meeting and the ethos were remarkable. It was not certain whether all churches would come and participate. Because of good arrangements, the meeting was not only made possible but also was a successful meeting. There was sincere sharing among those who disagreed in a real spirit of brotherhood. At this time in Orthodox world, the WCC showed a new face, a new ability to really help Orthodox to be in dialogue. Providing such a space was very valuable. He expressed his deep appreciation of WCC and the acting general secretary for the preparation of this meeting.

Rev. Everdith Yaritza Landrau (Presbyterian Church [USA]) said that she was looking forward to meeting the executive committee members in person in June. She thanked the moderator and the acting general secretary for their reports. She echoed the concerns of the vice-moderator with regard to the gun violence in the USA. She reported that even before this week of mass shooting, there was an attack in a super market where over ten African Americans were killed. Those in the country were grieving the senseless loss of life. Acts of racism continued and she hoped that the WCC would continue to wrestle with issues of racism.

Rev. Samson Olasupo Adeniyi Ayokunle (Nigerian Baptist Convention) also expressed his thanks for the reports and for the prayers for challenging situations. He added that hardly a day goes by in Nigeria when they did not hear about such violent acts as the recent kidnapping for ransom. He said that the world needed to join in speaking against this. As a Christian, he felt embarrassed that people acted in this way under the guise of religion.

H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian (Armenian Apostolic Church [Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin]) also expressed his thanks for the excellent and comprehensive reports. He reiterated the concern that twice in three weeks the USA had experienced tragic events due to gun violence. Because of their own personal interest, the country is a victim of a group of politicians who will not even consider changing law that was created 200 years ago. He hoped that at the assembly the WCC would be able to express its own prophetic voice apart from the German government's influence, in particular on the Ukraine/Russia conflict.

With regard to the Orthodox pre-assembly meeting he felt that the participants, from both the Eastern and Oriental traditions, had all spoken in a spirit of Christianity. An important statement was issued. He said that even with disagreements, those present spoke without hurting each other. He hoped for a similar spirit of reconciliation and *metanoia* at the Karlsruhe Assembly.

4. Review of Matters for Decision

The acting general secretary presented the Overview of Matters for Decision (Doc. No. 04). He affirmed matters would be referred to the sub-committees for consideration and discussion. Any member could send comments to any sub-committee by email. Following the sub-committee meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, reports and public issue statements would be presented for action in plenary on Thursday.

He added that the Moderator's Remarks (Doc. No. 02), the Report of the Acting General Secretary (Doc. No. 03) and the Draft Outline of the Report of the Executive Committee (Doc. No. 05) would be reviewed in all sub-committees.

4.1 Public Issues Sub-Committee

Three public statements were proposed for this meeting on the situation in Sudan, the UK-Rwanda agreement on asylum seekers and the global impacts of the Ukraine conflict. The list of Actions on Public Issues (Doc. No. 33) since February 2022 was presented for information. The draft statements were referred to the public issues sub-committee, under the leadership of H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste.

Metropolitan Serafim proposed that two additional statements be considered:
- Statement on Nigeria kidnapping
- Stockholm50+ meeting.

Metropolitan Nifon welcomed the suggestions and reiterated that all members are welcome to send in their suggestions and comments to the public issues sub-committee for consideration.

4.2 Personnel, Staffing and Nominations Sub-committee

4.2.1 Overview of matters for decisions on governance

The matters before this sub-committee included preparations for the central committee in June, assembly-related nominations and membership matters. The sub-committee would also discuss the messages from the Inter-Orthodox Pre-Assembly and Specialized Ministries

Pre-Assembly. These matters were referred to the sub-committee on personnel, staffing and nominations, under the leadership of Bishop Simo Peura.

4.2.2 Draft Outline of the Report of the Executive Committee (Doc. No. 05)

The sub-committee was asked to review the draft outline of the report with particular attention to the evaluation of the recent online central committee meeting in February 2022.

4.2.3 Draft Annotated Agenda for the Central Committee, June 2022 (Doc. No. 22)

The central committee would meet in June for the first in-person meeting in four years. It would not be an ordinary meeting. All business would be addressed in plenary and the only standing committee meeting would be public issues. The four primary objectives were to 1) continue the process of the election of a new general secretary; 2) approve amendments to the WCC rules and by-laws for two commissions; 3) forward the draft unity statement to the assembly for action; and 4) issue public issues statements.

4.2.4 Nominations (Doc. No. 23)

Nominations were presented to the executive committee including 1) nominations of member church delegations; 2) additional delegate suggestions; 3) update on developing assembly committee membership; 4) proposed replacement for assembly leadership; 5) proposed advisors to strengthen the voice of women, youth, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples; and 6) proposed assembly preachers.

4.2.5 Membership Matters (Doc. No. 21)

Membership Matters included an update on visits to churches applying for membership, suspended until recently due to the pandemic. There were two new applications for membership in the WCC from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany. There was also a request for recognition as an International Ecumenical Organization by Church and Peace, a European ecumenical peace church network for consideration.

4.3 Programme Sub-Committee

4.3.1 Overview of Matters for Decision on Programme

The programme sub-committee agenda included the following for action 1) 2021 narrative reports; 2) draft report of the pre-assembly programme evaluation; and 3) revised draft unity statement for action. Several documents were presented for information, recording the progress made in various programmatic areas and responding to requests by the executive committee for further updates. The items were referred to the programme sub-committee, under the leadership of Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) and Rev. Dr Hyunju Bae (Presbyterian Church of Korea).

4.3.2 Narrative Programme Reports 2021 (full) (Doc. No. 07.1)

The narrative reports reflected the programmatic work achieved in 2021, reporting results as compared with plans and documenting activities that emerged during the year. Online meetings and productions were the primary method of delivering WCC activities in 2021. In spite of the pandemic, the WCC was able to continue serving the fellowship of member churches.

4.3.3 Draft Report of the Pre-Assembly Programme Evaluation (Doc. No. 08)

The executive committee had approved terms of reference and appointed a team to conduct the pre-assembly programme evaluation. Key recommendations included 1) continuing the pilgrimage as an expression the churches' common witness for justice, peace, reconciliation and unity; 2) strengthening the strategic plan by rooting more firmly in the common understanding and vision of the WCC; 3) continuing pilgrim team visits as a way to deepen the fellowship; 4) strengthening the regional engagement of the churches; and 5) enhancing digital adaptation. The draft was presented for feedback so that the team could finalize the report for submission to the executive committee meeting on 14 June.

4.3.4 Revised Draft Unity Statement (Doc. No. 12)

The draft unity statement was revised in response to feedback from the central committee in February. It was presented for discussion so that it could be forwarded to the central committee, with the request to receive, discuss and forward it to the assembly where it would be presented, discussed and finalized by the delegates as the assembly unity statement.

4.3.5 Revised Conversations on the Pilgrim Way Addendum (Doc. No. 14), Conversations on the Pilgrim Way Reader's Guide (Doc. No. 15), Final Report of the Reference Group on Human Sexuality (Doc. No. 16)

In response to a question, Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, deputy general secretary, said that the documents were presented for information to the executive committee. At its meeting in February 2022, the central committee received the document Conversations on the Pilgrim Way and asked that the Addendum be revised and brought back to the executive committee. She added that the Reader's Guide is also for information and is meant to go hand-in-hand with the main document for churches interested in engaging on these issues. It does not necessarily need input from governance, but the executive committee can decide how best to proceed with the documents.

The acting general secretary said that at the Orthodox pre-assembly meeting everyone was positive about the main document that had been received at the central committee meeting. However, they said that the addendum was unhelpful as it brought up more issues and could risk sabotaging the larger document if the addendum were to be integrated.

Dr Abuom said that the leadership of the central committee had also discussed the documents and had come to the same conclusion that it would be better not to integrate the addendum at this time, but to commend the resource document for those churches who want to use it and want to engage with other churches on the issues.

Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East) noted that the documents were not listed for the upcoming central committee meeting in June. Recommendations were listed in the Report of the Reference Group on Human Sexuality and she asked how action might be taken on the recommendations. She asked about the process for incorporating input from WCC governance and their status at the assembly. She was uncomfortable forwarding the documents to the assembly, even as background material for

the ecumenical conversation. She proposed that they be forwarded to the new central committee after the assembly.

Metropolitan Nifon supported the suggestion. The moderator said that the documents were referred to the programme sub-committee for further deliberations and encouraged the members to send their comments on the documents to the sub-committee.

4.4 Finance Sub-committee

4.4.1 Overview of matters for decisions on finance

The following matters were referred to the finance sub-committee: the financial report 2021 (Doc. No. 29); the comprehensive report of the auditors (Doc. No. 30) and the report of the audit committee (Doc. No. 28). The monitoring report (Doc. No. 27) included an update on management accounts; the financial forecast for the WCC 11th Assembly; a survey of performance against the indicators defined in the financial strategy 2018-2022; and an update on the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The finance sub-committee would receive the report of the Green Village steering committee (Doc. No. 31) and the transaction review process for the Green Village (Doc. No. 32), reporting on current status and the forthcoming Kyoto sale. The matters are referred to the finance sub-committee, under the leadership of H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian.

4.4.2 Financial Reporting 2021

The financial report 2021 was presented for adoption. In 2021, the WCC reported total income of CHF 22 million, total expenditure of CHF 19.3 million, and an increase in funds and reserves of CHF 2.7 million. General reserves closed at CHF 7.4 million, above the target of CHF 7 million set by central committee.

4.4.3 Appointment of the Auditors for 2022

In 2019, KPMG was appointed as auditor on the recommendation of the audit committee, in principle for a five-year period, subject to annual appointment. The audit committee supported the view that KPMG should be appointed for 2022 by the executive committee.

4.4.4 Appointment of Audit Committee Members from the New Executive Committee in 2022

The audit committee observed that it would be important to appoint at least two members of the new executive committee to the audit committee before the end of October 2022. The responsibilities of governance, in supervising the audit planning process 2022, would be required for early November 2022.

4.4.5 Audit Process: “Inquiries with those charged with governance”

As requested by the auditors, the audit committee completed a questionnaire addressed to “those charged with governance”, concerning incidents of fraud, fraud risk, and the role and responsibilities of governance with regard to fraud risks. The audit committee highlighted that the questionnaire was completed on behalf of executive committee.

4.4.6 Matters Arising from Financial Monitoring (Doc. No. 27)

The finance overview (Doc. No. 27) presented five principles for the development of the membership contributions plan for 2023-2030 in preparation for the assembly finance committee.

4.4.7 Report of the Steering Committee for Green Village, April 2022 (Doc. No. 31) and Transaction Review Process for Green Village (Doc. No. 32)

Recommendations from the steering committee in April 2022 were addressed by the executive committee from 26 April to 3 May 2022 with a decision to accept the revised binding offer for the sale of Kyoto. Work proceeded towards the expected transaction. The finance sub-committee may bring additional guidance with regard to the Green Village transactions. The transaction review process for Green Village (Doc. No. 32) showed the progress achieved in the transaction steps identified and monitored since 2018.

5. First Presentation on Public Issues

Metropolitan Nifon, moderator of the public issues sub-committee, asked Mr Peter Prove, CCIA director, to present the proposed public issue statements. He presented the following:

5.1 Draft Statement on the situation in Sudan and the role of the churches (reflecting on the recent ecumenical solidarity visit to Sudan) (Doc. No. 34)

The statement refers to a visit taken jointly with FECCLAHA and the AACC in April 2022. It gives further evidence of solidarity and accompaniment of WCC and the global ecumenical community to the struggles of the Christian minority in Sudan. Solidarity for the churches in Sudan is being expressed in this time when the Sudan Council of Churches is being reorganized.

5.2 Draft statement on UK-Rwanda agreement regarding asylum-seekers arriving in the UK (Doc. No 35)

The statement expresses concerns raised by this initiative because of the impact on those it would affect. The initiative further vulnerabilises those already made vulnerable and sets dangerous precedents for migration law.

5.3 Ukraine Conflict and its Humanitarian Impacts and Global Effects (Doc. No. 36)

Mr Prove said that it was not the intention of this statement to focus on the conflict but rather on the wider effects of the crisis, particularly on food security. There is widening political and social unrest in many parts of the world as a result of the conflict and it will become an emergency in some places (famine). He added that another meeting would take place on 10 June addressing the conflict itself, particularly from the perspective of the churches in the vicinity. This meeting would provide further information relevant for a possible statement issued by central committee meeting in June.

With regard to the two proposed statements:

- Kidnapping of church leaders in Nigeria – a text could be prepared through the sub-committee

- Stockholm +50 environmental conference – the WCC would be represented at that event later this week and colleagues were also contributing to a joint inter-faith statement to be presented to the meeting (the text would be shared with the executive committee); he would consult with the colleagues on whether an executive committee statement would be helpful at this time.

6. Closing Remarks and Prayer

The moderator concluded the day's session. It had been good to hear the sharing from the regions. The committee was concerned by the violence reported and alarmed by the attacks on churches and church leaders. She echoed the call by Bishop Simo Peura for repentance. She asked all to reflect on what it would mean for us to enter into a process of repentance and, referring to the assembly theme, how to move forward with repentance along with reconciliation and unity.

The session closed with a prayer led by Rev. Karl Johnson.

7. Welcome – 2 June 2022

The moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom, welcomed the executive committee to the last day of deliberations. She informed the group that an ecumenical icon, Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, vice-moderator of the central committee, had been called home the previous day. In Kenya in such a situation, it is said that "the Mugumo tree has fallen".

The pilgrimage that was embarked upon at the Bussan assembly was all about our faith in God. As a collective community and as individuals it is hard to understand why such things happen. Nevertheless we continue to thank God for everything – whether good or challenging, as it is His will for us in Christ. She urged the group not to entertain feelings of anxiety and fear but rather discern God's will for our time, for the destiny of the WCC and for this committee. She hoped the community would allow the fruits and the power of the Holy Spirit to flow through each one and, in the midst of what seems to be darkness, allow the rays of light to shine. The pilgrimage rests on our faith in the God of life, on the God of peace. She thanked God for the time pilgrimaged with Metropolitan Gennadios and said may God rest the ecumenical Mugumo tree in peace.

H.E. Metropolitan Nifon explained that in the Eastern Orthodox tradition it was Ascension Day, a feast almost as important as Easter. He offered a prayer for Metropolitan Gennadios.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson offered a prayer of thanks for the life and ministry of Metropolitan Gennadios and others who have passed away.

Mr Chial gave a brief overview of the agenda and a reminder on the conduct of meetings. The moderator informed the group that the closed session would be postponed till the next executive committee meeting on 14 June 2022.

<u>Quorum was confirmed</u> with 19 members and the acting general secretary present.

8. Report of the Public Issues Sub-Committee

Dr Abuom moderated a decision session. H.E. Metropolitan Nifon, moderator of the public issues sub-committee, thanked the moderator and said that the sub-committee had worked hard on the four statements to be presented. He presented the report of the public issues sub-committee. He reviewed the summary of actions which was received by consensus with appreciation.

8.1 Statement on Ecumenical Solidarity Visit to Sudan (Doc. No. 34rev)

The statement was read out by Mr Prove. Metropolitan Serafim proposed referring specifically to the Muslim brothers and sisters in Sudan as they make up over 90% of the population. The committee felt that the text referring to "the people of Sudan" and "in the region and around the world" was sufficiently inclusive.

Statement on Ecumenical Solidarity Visit to Sudan

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you" (Psalm 89:14)

The executive committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting online on 30 May-2 June 2022, welcomes the ecumenical solidarity visit to Sudan on 20-25 April 2022 undertaken jointly by the WCC, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). Though this visit was planned already in early 2020 in light of the political upheavals and transitions of 2019, it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, in October 2021, a military coup displaced again the civilian governmental leadership, in a development which this executive committee described as a betrayal of the revolution of 2019 and of the country's own Constitutional Document and other foundational documents of the transition.

The purpose of the ecumenical solidarity visit was to accompany the churches and people of Sudan in the midst of significant changes and challenges in the country, and carried a strong message to the interim leadership of the Sudan Council of Churches of the support and solidarity of their ecumenical partners in the region and around the world.

The executive committee:

- ***affirms*** *this initiative, expresses its support for the churches of Sudan in their witness and ministry, and encourages national ecumenical cooperation in addressing the needs of Sudan's people at this pivotal point in the history of their nation.*
- ***requests*** *the Acting General Secretary to explore ways in which the WCC can continue to offer its support and accompaniment to the churches and people of Sudan, and for the reconstruction of the Sudan Council of Churches as an effective ecumenical instrument for engaging in the Sudanese national dialogue on behalf of the churches and Christian community.*
- ***encourages*** *the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) and indeed all ecumenical partners and specialized ministries with the means to do so to offer their*

support and accompaniment to the churches and people of Sudan and to the Sudan Council of Churches during this period of re-building and re-engagement.

The statement was approved by consensus.

8.2 Statement on the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership (Doc. No. 35rev)

"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."
(Matthew 25:45)

On Thursday 14 April 2022, the United Kingdom and Rwanda announced a new Migration and Economic Development Partnership. Through this partnership, asylum-seekers who are already on UK soil can be transferred to Rwanda, where their asylum claims will be processed. Though UK government officials claim that the agreement "fully complies with all national and international law, including the UN Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights", many reputable human rights organizations as well as senior church leaders in the UK have criticized it.

While the Partnership claims that it will only target those that arrived in the UK "illegally, through safe countries", critics describe it as an attempt by a wealthy country to outsource migration management to a poorer country in violation of obligations under international refugee law.

The executive committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting online on 30 May-2 June 2022, expresses its concern that this agreement is inconsistent with Christian faith principles, and risks undermining the foundations of the post-World War II international refugee protection system, in particular the right to asylum.

UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Gillian Triggs has confirmed that "UNHCR remains firmly opposed to arrangements that seek to transfer refugees and asylum seekers to third countries in the absence of sufficient safeguards and standards," and described the arrangements as shifting asylum responsibilities and evading international obligations that are "contrary to the letter and spirit of the Refugee Convention." The executive committee concurs with the Assistant High Commissioner that "People fleeing war, conflict and persecution deserve compassion and empathy… They should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing".

The executive committee ***calls*** *upon the government of the United Kingdom to reconsider this policy, in light of the additional threat it poses to people already fleeing from conflict and oppression.*

The statement was approved by consensus.

8.3 Statement on Global Humanitarian Impacts of the War in Ukraine (Doc. No. 36rev)

Before reading the text Mr Prove emphasized that the text focused less on the conflict in Ukraine and more on the global impacts of the war, particularly on food security.

In response to a proposal for a strong condemnation of the war, through the biblical passage, Metropolitan Nifon reminded the committee that the statement was not meant to focus on the conflict itself but rather on its impacts globally. The criticism of the conflict was clear in the first paragraph and the biblical passage was chosen deliberately.

Metropolitan Serafim said that the first priority was to do something for peace and that this should be recorded in the minutes. Mr Prove added that for the meeting of the central committee, it was anticipated that the meeting would address itself to conflict more directly. The central committee was the governing body to speak with higher authority and larger representation of member churches. As this was foreseen it was felt that the executive committee should not make a statement on the conflict so close to the meeting of the central committee.

Statement on Global Humanitarian Impacts of the War in Ukraine

"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." James 2:15-17

The conflict in Ukraine continues to cause a terrible toll of death, destruction, displacement and misery for the Ukrainian people, with thousands of civilians reported to have been killed, and more than 14 million people – well over a quarter of the entire population – forced to flee from their homes. In addition, the impacts of this war are being felt far beyond the borders of Ukraine or the European region, producing a downward spiral effect on a global economy already battered by COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Prices of food, fertiliser and energy have risen rapidly in many parts of the world, given the important roles played by Russia and Ukraine in these markets.

As reported recently in *The Economist*, together Russia and Ukraine supply 12% of traded calories globally. Over 30 countries depend on them for at least 30% of their wheat supply, and almost 40% of total African wheat imports come from Russia and Ukraine. The war is seriously exacerbating a pre-existing global food crisis resulting from climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts elsewhere, as well as underlining the fragility of corporate-dominated food systems. Ukraine's exports of grain and oilseeds have almost ceased, and those from Russia are greatly impeded. Food prices are currently at their highest since records began 60 years ago, worsening hunger in many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable regions. Wheat prices had risen by more than 50% since the start of 2022, even before a further 6% increase on 16 May after India announced it was suspending its exports because of an extreme heatwave affecting its own harvests.

The number of people facing acute food insecurity has more than doubled - from 135 million to 276 million - since 2019. A total of 44 million people in 38 countries are teetering on the edge of famine, and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine threatens to push them over the edge.

Moreover, the increased prices of basic commodities compounded by the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine are generating social and political instability in several countries around the world.

Accordingly, the WCC executive committee, meeting online 30 May-2 June 2022:

- ***Reiterates*** the urgent call for a ceasefire in Ukraine, and for dialogue to achieve a sustainable peace for the people of the region, and stability in the wider world.
- ***Stresses*** the need for sustained and strengthened international response to hunger and other humanitarian crises around the world that are being exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine.
- ***Reaffirms*** the central importance of the international community addressing structural drivers fuelling hunger and malnutrition – including climate change, unresolved conflicts, and persistent extreme poverty – to prevent recurrent food crises.
- ***Calls*** on nations and communities to envision a new global food security strategy that focuses on building resilience at the local level, supporting smallholder food producers, promoting and scaling up agro-ecological food production, reducing food waste, building food reserves, curbing speculation and reducing reliance on deregulated markets.
- ***Emphasises*** the human right to food, based on principles of dignity, non-discrimination, self-sufficiency and solidarity, which should form the basis of a new food security strategy.
- ***Acknowledges and welcomes*** the establishment by the UN Secretary-General of a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG) to support developed and developing countries in facing these converging crises, and commit the full collaboration of the WCC to this initiative.

The statement was approved by consensus.

8.4 Statement on Kidnappings in Nigeria (Doc. No. 37)

Mr Prove introduced the statement by saying that the text was generated in response to the proposal by Metropolitan Serafim referring to the reports being received about kidnappings of church leaders that were taking place during these days in Nigeria, in particular the Prelate of the Methodist Church Nigeria, Archbishop Dr Samuel Chukwuemeka Kanu Uche. Mr Prove reported that since then, the prelate and his companions had been released upon payment of a large ransom. The public issues sub-committee felt that it would still be helpful to prepare a text on this issue as the events were representative of an escalating and worsening series of incidents of this type. Kidnappings and requests for ransoms were affecting the population in Nigeria, in particular in Northern Nigeria, including membership and leadership of churches in that region.

Statement on Kidnappings in Nigeria

During its current meeting (30 May-2 June 2022 online) the executive committee of the World Council of Churches was deeply disturbed by the kidnapping on 29 May of Dr Samuel Chukwuemeka Kanu Uche, the Prelate of the Methodist Church Nigeria – along with the

Methodist Bishop of Owerri Diocese Rt Rev. Dennis Okechukwu Mark, and the Chaplain to the Prelate, Very Rev. Jeremiah Abidemi Shittu – and was greatly relieved by the news of their safe release on 31 May.

This alarming incident is representative of an escalating crisis of criminal kidnappings which have become commonplace across Nigeria. It is estimated that in the first three months of this year alone, more than 3,500 people have been killed and many more kidnapped by armed groups in Nigeria. In a particularly serious attack on a passenger train travelling between Abuja and Kaduna in March, at least nine people were killed, and more than 60 are believed to be still held by the gunmen.

In addition to Dr Uche and his companions, other clergy have also been victims of such kidnappings, including most recently Roman Catholic priests Fr Stephen Ojapa and Fr Oliver Okpara serving the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, who were kidnapped in an armed attack on their residence in Katsina state on 25 May, and Fr Joseph Aketeh of the Archdiocese of Kaduna who was kidnapped in March and died at the hands of his abductors after more than a month of captivity. The WCC has received reports of many other clergy and Christians who have been kidnapped and still remain in captivity, with little or no effort by the government to rescue the victims.

The global ecumenical fellowship of churches is deeply concerned by the effects of the activities of criminal kidnappers who have continued to commit crimes and atrocities against the people of Nigeria for more than a decade, with the clergy and the churches among the major victims.

Whilst we received with great joy the news of the release of the Prelate and his companions, this outcome was only achieved after the payment of a huge ransom. We think at this time especially of the victims whose families cannot afford to pay such heavy ransoms for the return of their loved ones.

The executive committee:

- ***Condemns*** these killings and kidnappings for criminal or other purposes, and calls on the Nigerian government and authorities to ensure accountability for the perpetrators of such crimes.
- ***Appeals*** to the Nigerian authorities to do all in their power to rescue those still held in captivity, to bring an end to the kidnappings and killings, and to ensure adequate security for the lives and properties for all Nigerians to enable them to live in safety and dignity and without fear.
- ***Prays*** for the safe release of all those still held in captivity, and for the consolation of bereaved family and community members.
- ***Expresses*** Christian solidarity with the churches and people of Nigeria, as they seek a future of safety and dignity for their communities threatened by such criminal atrocities.

The statement was approved by consensus.

The moderator said she would have to leave for Thessaloniki that evening to take part in the funeral of Metropolitan Gennadios the following day.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson moderated a decision session.

8.5 Proposal for Statement on Stockholm+50

H.E. Metropolitan Nifon said that WCC would be represented by a delegation in Stockholm for the conference on the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment. The WCC had contributed to an inter-faith statement for the conference, shared with the sub-committee. For this reason the public issues sub-committee did not recommend an additional statement by the executive committee at this time.

Metropolitan Serafim agreed that a new statement is not necessary at this time. He said that climate justice was one of main themes of assembly and as members of the executive and central committees we try to emphasize this crisis. There was no specific action yet on the proposal for a commission on ecology. He felt that the suffering taking place now was the result of our ecological sins in the last 50 years. While there was a lot of coverage in the mass media on 70 years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth there is only very little on climate change and the future of the planet.

Bishop Swenson thanked him for his comments and his ongoing commitment to climate justice.

8.6 Public Issues for Central Committee

Metropolitan Nifon drew the attention of the members to the list reviewed and affirmed by the public issues sub-committee proposed for public issue statements by the June 2022 central committee meeting, i.e.:

1. Draft statement on conflict in Ukraine
2. Draft statement on the climate emergency (in light of latest scientific reports, and referring to the WCC climate-responsible finance initiative, and including Indigenous Peoples' perspectives)
3. Draft statement on the situation in Ethiopia (in light of latest reports regarding humanitarian situation in Tigray and elsewhere in the country, and supporting efforts by the churches in Ethiopia to respond ecumenically)
4. Draft Statement on sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
5. Draft statement on the UN Security Council reform (in light of history of misuse of veto power by P5 members, and expressing support for the recent reform initiative led by Liechtenstein)
6. Draft statement on religious freedom and the Christian presence in Israel-Palestine
7. Draft statement on 'Killer Robots' in light of obstacles to progress in banning lethal autonomous weapons systems

The proposed list was approved by consensus.

The entire report of the public issues sub-committee was approved by consensus.

Bishop Swenson expressed thanks to the moderator of the public issues sub-committee, Metropolitan Nifon, Mr Peter Prove and to the sub-committee members for their work.

9. Report of the Personnel, Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee

The moderator of the personnel, staffing and nominations sub-committee, Bishop Simo Peura, suggested that the rapporteur read only the recommendations for decision by the executive committee.

H.E. Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos read the recommendations.

9.1 Membership Matters (Doc. No. 21)

The sub-committee noted that the update on visits to applicant churches was presented to the executive committee for information. Because of the pandemic some of the applicant churches had been waiting for an official visit for a while. The central committee, at its meeting online in June 2021, decided to invite the applicant churches to the assembly.

9.1.1 New applications for membership in the WCC

Orthodox Church of Ukraine

The Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which received its Tomos of Autocephaly from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has over 7,000 communities and more than ten million members. The church is actively engaged in ecumenical relations through the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, including the Armenian Apostolic Church, German Evangelical Church of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (in communion with Moscow Patriarchate) and others. The Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church are not in communion as Orthodox churches but both are members in the national council.

Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev (Russian Orthodox Church [Moscow Patriarchate]) said that he was aware that the application of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine had been received but he understood that no visit had yet taken place to the church, along with the usual consultation with the local churches. He said that even before there was conflict in the country, there were reports of seizures by the Orthodox Church of Ukraine of parishes/churches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Despite this both churches had remained together as members of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations in Ukraine. At the same time, there were still tensions between these churches. With regard to the recommendation, he questioned whether the executive committee should go ahead before consulting the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, a WCC member church through the Moscow Patriarchate.

Fr Ioan affirmed that a visit would take place and that this dialogue would begin during and continue after the team visit. He said that constitutionally WCC could invite the church to send an observer. Whether the church would be accepted into membership was a decision which would be taken later.

Rev. Rainer Kiefer (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) said that, as had been learned in recent meetings, any opportunity for conversation among these parties would be very welcome. For this reason he was in favour of the recommendation. Other committee members also expressed their hope that Ukrainians would be present at the assembly (see also section 09.1.2 below).

The recommendation:

1) *The executive committee **instructs** the acting general secretary to issue an invitation to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine to nominate two delegated observers to the WCC 11th Assembly in 2022, recognizing the church's strong interest to join the WCC fellowship of member churches.*

was approved by consensus.

Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Deutschland, BEFG)

The BEFG is a community of 800 Baptist congregations with 82,000 members. They are involved in the areas of proclamation, education, diakonia, ecumenism and world mission. The BEFG is a member of the ACK (national council of churches).

The recommendation:

2) *The executive committee **instructs** the acting general secretary to invite the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany to nominate a delegated observer to the WCC 11th Assembly in 2022, recognizing the church's strong interest to join the WCC fellowship of member churches.*

was approved by consensus.

9.1.2 Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations

The committee discussed the need to strengthen the participation of churches in Ukraine at the assembly. The Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations is the national ecumenical platform that brings together a broad range of churches and other faiths. Though not an associate council recognized by the central committee, the Ukrainian Council had a working relationship with the WCC.

The recommendation:

3) *The executive committee **instructs** the acting general secretary to issue an invitation to the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, recognizing their role as a national council that brings together churches and other faiths, to send up to 3 observers to the assembly.*

was approved by consensus.

9.1.3 Request for recognition as an International Ecumenical Organization by Church and Peace

Church and Peace is a European ecumenical peace church network of communities, training centres, peace organisations and peace service agencies. It was established after the World War II to foster peace and reconciliation. It is an associate member of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). The request would be processed by the next central committee, through the permanent committee and executive committee.

The recommendation:

4) *The executive committee **instructs** the acting general secretary to issue invitations to Church and Peace to nominate an observer to the WCC 11th Assembly in 2022, recognizing the strong interest for recognition as an International Ecumenical Organization.*

was approved by consensus.

Under membership matters, Dr Bae asked about the request by the Association of Women Ministers to be an international ecumenical organization recognized by the central committee. Mr Chial responded that at its last meeting, the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration reviewed the application and recommended that the association be invited to send an observer to the assembly. At the February central committee meeting this recommendation was affirmed and the invitation had been sent.

In response to a question, it was explained that since the beginning of May 2022 there were no limitations in Germany on the number of people in the assembly venue. People were still asked to wear masks. Adding the above noted invitations would not overtax the assembly in terms of the number of participants.

9.2 Draft Outline of the Report of the Executive Committee (Doc. No. 05)

The document was presented as a "skeleton report" to be filled in following the current online meeting of the executive committee. The draft has anticipated some decisions but feedback from the executive committee members was welcome and members were encouraged to send any additions to the secretariat.

The sub-committee considered the draft outline and focused its discussion on the section on *Evaluation of central committee meetings by electronic communication*. The results of the evaluation were presented because new rules on meeting electronically would be presented at the upcoming central committee for approval. Some of the experiences of the past few years could inform the central committee discussions. Following the two electronic meetings of the central committee, there had been some critical comments that controversial or sensitive issues should not be addressed during online meetings.

The evaluations showed that aspects of the meetings such as worship, agenda, moderation of sessions and documents were evaluated very positively. There were less favourable evaluations of the decision sessions and participation, e.g. some members monopolizing the discussion. Giving such an important place to this discussion in the report of the executive committee to the central committee was meant to stimulate a good decision in the central committee, for a serious reflection on the experiences of the past two years.

Several suggestions for improvements to the text were made including:

- More affirmation of the positive aspects of meeting electronically, e.g. meeting online allowed the WCC governance to meet its obligations and get its business done, despite a global crisis; offered a way of meeting in a time of new challenges;
- How/if online meetings help the central committee to meet its objectives, e.g. business of the central committee, living the fellowship, common prayer, etc.;
- What the executive committee explicitly concludes from this evaluation, e.g. that using online meetings should be further explored, that meeting electronically should encourage more "thinking outside the box" in terms of governance, etc.

It was with great sadness that the sub-committee received the news of the sub-committee moderator, Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios' of Sassima passing. This should be included in the report of the executive committee to the central committee.

The recommendations:

5) *The executive committee **asks** the secretariat to consider the results of the evaluations when organizing governance meetings.*
6) *The executive committee **asks** the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration to evaluate the quality of discussions at electronic meetings, from the perspective of its mandate to monitor consensus.*
7) *The executive committee **asks** the secretariat to evaluate the experiences of electronic meetings and the new rules on electronic meetings, as part of the mid-term evaluation between assemblies.*

were approved by consensus.

9.3 Draft Annotated Agenda for the Central Committee, June 2022 (Doc. No. 22)

The central committee would meet in June for four days. All business would be addressed in plenary and the only standing committee would be public issues. The sub-committee affirmed the four primary objectives 1) continue the process of the election of a new general secretary; 2) approve amendments to the WCC rules and by-laws for two commissions; 3) forward the draft unity statement to the assembly for action; and 4) issue public issues statements. This meeting would give the central committee the opportunity to complete the business entrusted to it in this term.

Regarding the closed sessions the sub-committee offered the following suggestions:

- The outline of each closed session should be made very clear to the members from the start of the meeting. The consensus consultant has drafted a presentation for the first day along these lines and will be working on it further in collaboration with the consensus facilitation team.
- The process of the two sessions should be presented in a matter-of-fact manner.
- Some time may be taken from the first session on Thursday (report of the executive committee) to ensure that the first closed session is two hours long.
- The report of the search committee should be distributed at the end of the first afternoon session (moderator's address and report of the acting general secretary) before the coffee break. Time should be allowed for this in the outline of the session. This will ensure that members have sufficient time to read it carefully while limiting the risk of breach of confidentiality.

A new recommendation was suggested during the discussion for those who are unable to participate in the meeting or name a substitute because of travel restrictions in their countries.

The recommendation:

8) *The executive committee **encourages** those members of the central committee who are unable to travel to Geneva or provide a substitute, to participate in the discussions by posting comments on the electronic discussion portal on all matters except the election of the general secretary.*

was approved by consensus.

Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul proposed that the description of the process of the election of a new general secretary begin with the presentation of the report of the search committee. This was agreed.

She asked that all the comments and suggestions regarding the revisions of the WCC Rules be forwarded to the central committee meeting in June 2022. This was agreed.

The recommendation:

9) *The executive committee **approves** the revised draft annotated agenda of the central committee (Doc. No. 22 rev) for publication to the central committee.*

was approved by consensus.

9.4 Nominations (Doc. No. 23)

9.4.1 Nominations of member church delegations

At its meeting in February 2022, the central committee referred nominations received after the meeting to the executive committee for action. The sub-committee welcomed the nominations from six member churches (eight delegates and two advisors), cf. Appendix 2.

The recommendation:

10) *The executive committee **confirms** the delegates and advisors nominated by the member churches with appreciation; and **refers** nominations received after the executive committee to leadership of the central committee.*

was approved by consensus.

9.4.2 Additional delegate suggestions

At its meeting in February 2022, the central committee referred additional Orthodox delegates suggestions received after the central committee meeting to the executive committee for action. The sub-committee welcomed the six new additional delegate suggestions received from four Orthodox member churches, cf. Appendix 2.

The recommendation:

11) *The executive committee **nominates** the six additional delegates to strengthen the overall profile of the assembly; and **refers** additional delegates suggestions received after the executive committee to leadership of the central committee.*

was approved by consensus.

9.4.3 Update on developing assembly committee membership

Following the February 2022 central committee's decision to appoint six committees to prepare the business, the secretariat proposed a process of consultation with the executive committee, member churches with large delegations and staff to prepare assembly committee membership. A first draft of proposed committee membership will be presented to the executive committee on 14 June. The executive committee may decide to invite the central committee to provide additional suggestions.

The profiles of the committee membership show a potential distribution across regions and ensure 25% Orthodox participation. It was noted that the number of advisors on committees

is very low. Following a discussion on *fair and adequate representation*, a new recommendation was proposed.

The recommendations:

12) *The executive committee **receives** the proposed process, **approves** the proposed membership profile, as presented in Appendix 2, and **will review** the first draft proposal on 14 June 2022.*
13) *The executive committee **requests** that two to three youth advisors be included in each assembly committee, depending on the size of the committee.*

were approved by consensus.

9.4.4 Proposed replacement for assembly leadership

The majority of the assembly leadership approved by the February central committee responded positively. The following replacements are proposed.

Assembly Committees

Finance Committee – Moderator

- Replacing Ms Lara Setrakian (Armenian Apostolic Church Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin), Delegate, Oriental Orthodox, North America, Female, Lay
- With H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian (Armenian Apostolic Church Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin), Delegate Oriental Orthodox, North America, Male, Ordained (TBC)

Thematic Plenaries

"Affirming justice and human dignity" – Moderator

- Replacing Rev. Dr Sang Chang (Presbyterian Church of Korea), President, Asia, Ordained, Female
- With Rev. Dr Henrietta Hutabarat-Lebang (Toraja Church), Delegate, Asia, Ordained, Female

"Affirming the wholeness of life" – Moderator

- Replacing Archbishop Mark MacDonald (Anglican Church of Canada), President, North America, Ordained, Indigenous, Male
- With Rev. Tara Tautari (Methodist Church of New Zealand), Delegate, Asia, Ordained, Indigenous, Female

Ecumenical Conversations

EC2 – Dreaming a New Future: A Call from the Margins – Rapporteur

- Replacing Ms Cindy Vanuaroro (Vanuatu Presbyterian Church), Delegate, Reformed, Pacific, Female, Lay, Indigenous
- With Rev. Veronica Vasethe (Church of Melanesia), Delegate, Anglican, Pacific, Female, Ordained, Indigenous

EC 13 – Towards a Just Peace in the Middle East – Rapporteur

- Replacing Rev. Joseph Majd Kasaab (National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon), Delegate, Reformed, Middle East, Ordained, Male
- With Mr Razek Aboud Siriani (Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East), Delegate, Oriental Orthodox, Middle East, Lay, Male

EC 15 – Freedom of Religion and Belief: The Church and Others in the Face of Religious Discrimination and Oppression – Moderator

- Replacing Rev. Dr Elfriede Dörr (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania), Delegate, Lutheran, Europe, Ordained, Female
- With Fr Hrant Tahanian (Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia)), Delegate, Oriental Orthodox, Middle East, Ordained, Male - Delegate

EC21 – Christian Ethics and Human Rights – Moderator

- Replacing Dr Nigussu Legesse (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church), Delegate, Orthodox Oriental, Africa, Lay, Male
- With Rev. Protopresbyter Dr Nicolas Kazarian (Ecumenical Patriarchate), Delegate, Eastern Orthodox, North America, Ordained, Male

The recommendation:

*14) The executive committee **approves** the proposed replacements for assembly leadership*

was approved by consensus.

9.4.5 Proposed advisors to strengthen the voice of women, youth, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples

Despite every effort made to strengthen the fair and adequate participation of these key populations through the additional delegate nominations, disappointment was expressed in the sub-committee that the delegations presented by the churches and the 20% nominated by the central and executive committees did not present a real *fair and adequate representation*, especially regarding women, youth, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

In preparing the pre-assemblies for women and men, young people, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, a number of people were identified by the member churches and ecumenical partners as resource persons to strengthen planning and implementation (cf. Appendix 2). Advisors have a voice in the assembly but do not participate in decision-making.

The WCC does not have a quota system and cannot impose balances on delegations submitted by the member churches. The sub-committee noted that while efforts to strengthen these voices were appreciated, advisors are not eligible for central committee. It was hoped that the advisors could be involved following the assembly in commission and consultative bodies, etc. This is an ongoing concern which can hopefully be addressed in innovative ways.

The recommendation:

*15) The executive committee **approves** the list of advisors, as presented in Appendix 2, to strengthen the fair and adequate representation of women, young people, persons with disabilities and Indigenous People.*

was approved by consensus.

9.4.6 Proposed assembly preachers

The staff leadership considered different proposals from the Assembly Worship Planning Committee (AWPC) including its last report in May.

Preachers are need for two services:

- Opening Prayer – primary text 1 Corinthians 5 – Compelled to follow Christ
- Closing Prayer – primary text John 21 – Do you love me? Feed my sheep

The following principles are presented for as selection criteria:

- Ability to deliver an inspiring sermon
- Selected from among the delegates
- Head of a member church
- One Orthodox and one not Orthodox
- One man and one woman
- Not from the Global North

There was some discussion in the sub-committee about order, but it was said that the names were selected for the opening and closing according to who was thought to be able to speak on which scriptures and the different aspects of an opening versus a closing worship. The closing worship will be a reflection of what happens during the assembly, i.e. not written beforehand.

The recommendation:

*16) The executive committee **affirms** the principles for selection and **instructs** the acting general secretary to invite the following delegates to preach at the opening and closing prayer services, respectively*

- Opening Prayer – H.B. John X, Patriarch, Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East, Delegate and President, Orthodox, Middle East, Ordained, Male
- Closing Prayer – Rt Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, Delegate, Reformed, Caribbean, Ordained, Female

was approved by consensus.

9.5 Follow up to decisions on governance and nominations (Doc. No. 20)

The document was received with appreciation for all the work done in follow up to previous decisions.

9.6 By-Laws of the Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing – Revised

The central committee, meeting in February 2022, provisionally accepted the by-laws and asked that they be presented to the central committee in June 2022 for final approval. Since February a process of consultation took place with Dr Audeh Quawas, central committee member and member of the working group on constitution and rules, and some further revisions had been suggested. At this current meeting of the executive committee Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul also suggested changes. These were integrated into the revised text presented with this report.

The recommendation:

*17) The executive committee **forwards** the revised by-laws of the commission of the churches on health and healing to the central committee for approval at its meeting in June 2022.*

was approved by consensus.

9.7 Revised Young People in the Ecumenical Movement (YPEM) By-Laws

The central committee, at its meeting in February 2022, provisionally accepted the by-laws and asked that they be presented to the central committee in June 2022 for final approval. Since February a process of consultation had taken place with Dr Audeh Quawas, central committee member and member of the working group on constitution and rules, and some further revisions had been suggested. A further consultation with the ECHOS commission, which drafted the by-laws more than two years before, took place. The changes suggested were integrated into the revised text presented with this report.

The recommendation:

*18) The executive committee **forwards** the revised by-laws of the commission of young people in the ecumenical movement to the central committee for approval at its meeting in June 2022.*

was approved by consensus.

9.8 Report of the Inter-Orthodox Pre-Assembly (Doc. No. 24)

Most Orthodox member churches were present including a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). The discussions were open and honest and even the difficult and sensitive topics were discussed in a good spirit. The meeting also welcomed and celebrated the participation of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church. Thanks were expressed to H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios who, though he could not be present in Cyprus, developed the agenda and contributed to the good organization of the meeting. It was also noted that there was good participation from a number of younger, very committed, Orthodox theologians, men and women, who significantly contributed to the drafting of the final report.

The sub-committee appreciated the theological insights in the report and felt it would contribute to the whole assembly. The reminder from the work of the Special Commission that within the WCC there are ways to discuss sensitive subjects, was especially pertinent for this time. The report of the meeting was accepted by all the participants and will be brought to the assembly.

The recommendation:

*19) The executive committee **receives** the report of the inter-Orthodox pre-assembly with thanks and appreciation and **forwards** it to the assembly.*

was approved by consensus.

9.9 Specialized Ministries Pre-Assembly Message (Doc. No. 25)

Specialized ministries are the agencies of the member churches working on development, mission and diakonia, officially recognized by the central committee. The meeting was co-hosted by WCC together with ACT Alliance, as a sign of significant cooperation. Three areas of common concern and commitment were identified: 1) overcoming racism, racial injustice and xenophobia; 2) addressing the rise of populism; and 3) the climate and ecological emergency. These are areas around which ecumenical collaboration and cooperation are needed and the specialized ministries committed themselves to working on these issues.

The recommendation:

*20) The executive committee **receives** the specialized ministries pre-assembly message with thanks and appreciation and **forwards** it to the assembly.*

was approved by consensus.

9.10 Constitution and Rules Central Committee Documents

In February 2022, the central committee received the report of the working group on constitution and rules with appreciation and deferred decision on the proposed amendments to an in-person meeting for action in a rule-by-rule, section by section process. The proposals for amendments will be presented to the central committee one-by-one for approval or further amendment. The documents are presented to the executive committee for information. The sub-committee was satisfied that there was sufficient time in the agenda of the central committee meeting for the decisions needed. It is important that the proposed amendments are properly tabled for the central committee discussion. The members did not feel that any further action on this by the executive committee was needed at this time.

Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul reminded that this sub-committee had been chaired for many years by Metropolitan Gennadios. The committee's appreciation for his contribution and our sorrow at his loss should be expressed in our report and, also, in the report of the executive committee to the central committee.

Mr Doug Chial noted that work on the executive committee report will continue and the report will be approved on 14 June at the next meeting of the executive committee. The proposal to make a reference to the commitment and contribution of Metropolitan Gennadios will certainly be considered.

The report of the personnel, staffing and nominations sub-committee was approved by consensus.

The moderator, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, thanked the moderator, rapporteur and all members of the sub-committee for their work.

The executive committee agreed to extend the meeting beyond the planned timing.

10. Report of the Programme Sub-Committee

10.1 Moderator's Remarks (Doc. No. 02)

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber moderated the sub-committee meeting on Tuesday, but had to leave the meeting. Rev. Dr Hyunju Bae, took over the moderatorship and Rev. Karin van der Broeke was the rapporteur.

It was noted that the sub-committee received comments from Mrs Ann Glynn Mackoul. These comments were discussed in depth. The sub-committee expressed its appreciation to Mrs Glynn Mackoul for her contribution to the good discussion

The rapporteur presented the recommendations to the plenary.

The programme sub-committee welcomed and discussed the Moderator's Remarks (Doc. No. 02) and made the following recommendations as they relate to the programmatic work of the Council:

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the Moderator's Remarks with appreciation;*
2. ***underline*** *that endurance becomes key in times of fear, trial and temptation;*
3. ***highlight*** *the Pilgrim Team Visit to Italy, showing the significance of migration as an important theme for the World Council of Churches;*
4. ***thank*** *the moderator and the leadership team for the work done in disturbing and threatening times.*

were approved by consensus.

10.2 Report of the Acting General Secretary (Doc. No. 03)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Report of the Acting General Secretary (Doc. No. 03) and made the following observations:

Unity is under pressure, due to geopolitical tensions (war in Ukraine, Israel-Palestine) and due to questions on human sexuality on which the perspectives seem to exclude each other. More than ever the role of the World Council of Churches could and should be to create safe space for dialogue - believing that Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the report with appreciation;*
2. ***thank*** *the acting general secretary for the accountability reports;*
3. ***underline*** *the fellowship of churches as a safe space for dialogue and common prayer, especially in these times of enormous geopolitical tensions;*
4. ***lift up*** *the importance of good cooperation between ACT Alliance and the World Council of Churches to deal with the need of humanitarian assistance;*
5. ***thank*** *the acting general secretary and staff for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.3 Draft Outline of the Report of the Executive Committee (Doc. No. 05)

The programme sub-committee received and approved the report of the executive committee (Doc. No. 05).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the report with appreciation;*
2. ***thank*** *the executive committee for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.4 Follow up to Decisions on Programme (Doc. No. 06)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Follow up to Decisions on Programme (Doc. No. 06).

The recommendation of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the Follow up to Decisions on Programme with appreciation.*

was approved by consensus.

10.5 Narrative Programme Reports 2021 (full) (Doc. No. 07.1) and Narrative Programme Reports 2021 (summary) (Doc. No. 07.2)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed Narrative Programme Reports 2021 (full) (Doc. No. 07.1) and Narrative Programme Reports 2021 (summary) (Doc. No. 07.2).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the narrative reports with appreciation;*
2. ***approve*** *the narrative programme reports 2021 full document Doc. No. 07.1.*

were approved by consensus.

10.6 Draft Report of the Pre-Assembly Programme Evaluation (Doc. No. 08)

The programme sub-committee reviewed and offered feedback to the Draft Report of the Pre-Assembly Programme Evaluation (Doc. No. 08).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the draft report;*
2. ***underscore*** *that the pilgrimage, as a paradigm for moving together, continues to have great potential for enhancing the relevance of the WCC and the visibility of the fellowship in living out their common calling;*
3. ***lift up*** *the fact that COVID-19 caused us to develop a digital way of working that is very fruitful for the fellowship but also has its challenges;*
4. ***highlight*** *that more effort is needed to interpret the importance of WCC activities for the world and the churches, not simply to make the WCC more visible as an institution, but as a fellowship;*
5. ***underline*** *that the next strategic plan be developed in consultation with a diverse group of stakeholders;*
6. ***affirm*** *the direction so the team can complete the report.*

were approved by consensus.

10.7 WCC 2023 Outline Plans (Doc. No. 09)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the WCC 2023 Outline Plans (Doc. No. 09).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the outline plans;*
2. ***acknowledge*** *that 2023 will be a year with renewed leadership and a renewed staff who will need the prayer and a warm welcome of the fellowship;*
3. ***thank*** *the acting general secretary and his staff for the timely preparation of these outline plans, to secure continuity;*
4. ***ask*** *the acting general secretary to take care of a good handover between outgoing and incoming staff to secure the transfer of the institutional memory;*
5. ***thank*** *the WCC acting general secretary and staff for the WCC 2023 outline plans.*

were approved by consensus.

10.8 Report of the Advisory Group on Overcoming Racism (info) (Doc. No. 10)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Report of the Advisory Group on Overcoming Racism (Doc. No. 10).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the report with appreciation;*
2. ***underline*** *the importance of ongoing work on overcoming racism as one of the main challenges in the world;*
3. ***lift up*** *the opportunities of digital meetings on overcoming racism;*
4. ***highlight*** *the impact of COVID-19 on black, brown and indigenous communities, on which ongoing work is necessary;*
5. ***thank*** *the Advisory Group on Overcoming Racism for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.9 J. Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network Reference Group and Working Group on Climate Change Joint Report (Doc. No. 11)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network Reference Group and Working Group on Climate Change Joint Report (Doc. No. 11).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1. ***receive*** *the report with appreciation;*
2. ***appreciate*** *the role of Indigenous Peoples in caring for creation;*
3. ***underline*** *the importance of the contribution of Indigenous Peoples in the debate on climate change, so that their contribution can be taken into account for further programmatic work;*
4. ***thank*** *Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network Reference Group and Working Group on Climate Change for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.10 Revised Draft Unity Statement (Doc. No. 12)

The programme sub-committee received and approved the revised draft unity statement.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***receive*** *the revised draft of the Unity Statement;*
2) ***thank*** *the group that drafted the Unity Statement for their ongoing work and for including the remarks earlier given by the executive and central committees in February 2022;*
3) ***forward*** *the revised draft of the Unity Statement to the central committee in June 2022 for further action.*

were approved by consensus.

10.11 Report of the Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostals (Doc. No. 13)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Report of the Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostals (Doc. No. 13).

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***receive*** *the report with appreciation;*
2) ***underline*** *the importance of this conversation;*
3) ***thank*** *the Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostals for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.12 Conversations on the Pilgrim Way Revised Addendum (Doc. No. 14)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Conversations on the Pilgrim Way Revised Addendum (Doc. No. 14) and made the following comments:

This addendum captures the developments from 2019 to May 2022. The addendum is revised due to the pandemic. The original document was meant as a resource document for those churches that are interested. The programme sub-committee appreciates the work done by the reference group. It is likely that this document will need additional discernment before it could achieve consensus among the members of the central committee. It is therefore recommended that the executive committee decide to forward the addendum to the newly elected executive and central committee, after the Assembly.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***forward*** *the addendum to the next central and executive committee, after the Assembly;*
2) ***thank*** *the Human Sexuality Reference Group for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.13 Conversations on the Pilgrim Way Reader's Guide (Doc. No. 15)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Conversations on the Pilgrim Way Reader's Guide (Doc. No. 15) and made the following observations:

It is likely that this document will need additional discernment before it could achieve consensus among the members of the central committee. Therefore, it would be safer to forward the guide to the newly elected executive and central committee, after the Assembly, for further consideration and action.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***forward*** *the Reader's Guide to the next central and executive committee, after the Assembly;*
2) ***thank*** *the Human Sexuality Reference Group for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.14 Final Report of the Reference Group on Human Sexuality (Doc. No. 16)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Final Report of the Reference Group on Human Sexuality (Doc. No. 16) and made the following comments:

When it comes to human sexuality, the programme sub-committee is aware of more discernment needed to get consensus and to come to mutual understanding. This brings the programme sub-committee to some more general remarks and questions: 'Are we, as a

fellowship, willing and able to create safe spaces for encounter and dialogue? How do we move together on our Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace: sharing the gifts, visiting the wounds, transforming injustices?'

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***receive*** *the final report with appreciation;*
2) ***acknowledge*** *that the topic of human sexuality needs further reflection in the fellowship;*
3) ***affirm*** *that the issue of human sexuality is inseparable from gender justice and from health and healing, which are two emerging themes from the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace;*
4) ***take note of*** *the abusive exploitation of human sexuality in scapegoating and in war;*
5) ***express*** *the necessity of providing information on the safe space facilitation to the member churches;*
6) ***highlight*** *the importance of a biblical and theological study on the nature of family; the relationship between Jesus and women; and transformative masculinity (or false and toxic understandings of masculinity and femininity);*
7) ***thank*** *the Human Sexuality Reference Group for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

10.15 Report of the PJP Women of Faith Pilgrim Team Visits (Doc. No. 17)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Report of the PJP Women of Faith Pilgrim Team Visits (Doc. No. 17) and made the following comments:

This report makes visible the important role of women of faith and shows the need for trauma healing in conflict zones, especially for women. The sub-committee appreciates how different voices are presented and welcomes the idea of a booklet and other means of expression (e.g. video) to share the contribution of these PTV's.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***receive*** *the report with appreciation;*
2) ***highlight*** *the importance of the role of women in the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace;*
3) ***underline*** *the need for strengthening the capacity of women and for dealing with trauma;*
4) ***underline*** *the importance for capacity building for young Christian women for a just community of women and men.*

were approved by consensus.

10.16 Brief Report on the Status of WCC Programmatic Work on Syria (Doc. No. 18)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Brief Report on the Status of WCC Programmatic Work on Syria (Doc. No. 18). In response to a question, it was said that, though, strictly speaking, the Syria peace-building project is not related to humanitarian work, church leaders from Syria, meeting in Bossey, underlined that they would appreciate the humanitarian work of ACT Alliance. Therefore, the Council should work with ACT Alliance in its response to the situation. It was also noted that the acting general secretary will visit Syria together with the general secretary of ACT Alliance.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***receive*** *the brief report with appreciation;*
2) ***highlight*** *the ongoing and challenging programmatic work on Syria and on the Christian presence in the Middle East;*
3) ***underline*** *the importance of good cooperation with the ACT Alliance;*
4) ***thank*** *the general secretary for preparing this report and for the huge work done by the staff under difficult circumstances.*

were approved by consensus.

10.17 Message from the WCC-EHAIA IRG and the WCC-EAA HIV and AIDS SG (Doc. No. 19)

The programme sub-committee received and discussed the Message from the WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and the WCC-Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance HIV Strategy Group (Doc. No. 19) and highlighted that HIV is not just a medical problem, it is a social issue. It is the role of the WCC to keep churches on track and to raise awareness that HIV is still a huge challenge all over the world, which needs warning and reflection. For the WCC it is important that there is coherence in the work on health and healing.

The recommendations of the programme sub-committee that the executive committee:

1) ***receive*** *the message with appreciation;*
2) ***ask*** *the acting general secretary to reflect on an appropriate structure that assures coherence in the work on health and healing;*
3) ***thank*** *the WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and the WCC-Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance HIV Strategy Group for the work done.*

were approved by consensus.

The moderator, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, thanked the moderator, rapporteur and all members of the sub-committee for their work.The full report was approved by consensus.

11.Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

Since the moderator and rapporteur had to leave the meeting earlier, Ms Anne Glynn Mackoul presented the recommendations of the sub-committee reminding that finance work delegated to sub-committee is the primary place where financial fiduciary oversight takes place. This is a primary responsibility of the executive committee.

11.1 Remarks of the moderator and report of the acting general secretary (oral report, Doc. No 03)

The finance sub-committee appreciated the moderator's remarks, which conveyed her compassion, and longing for reconciliation and unity. The concern expressed on food insecurity in the global context in particular touched the members of the finance sub-committee, as did her encouragement to members of the executive committee to complete this extended term of governance with energy and hope.

Concerning the report of the acting general secretary, the finance sub-committee noted the extensive list of actions already taken in the context of the war in Ukraine. The work conducted in the round table meetings, with the aim of fostering dialogue, received strong support. The report of the meeting in Cyprus was particularly appreciated, with recognition of the commitment, care and sensitivity required in the leadership of discourse.

The recommendations:

1) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that the executive committee*
   - ***receive** the remarks of the moderator and the report of the acting general secretary with deep appreciation for their service at this very challenging time; and*
   - ***continue to pray** for the moderator and the acting general secretary.*

were approved by consensus.

11.2 Draft report of the executive committee to central committee (Doc. No. 05)

The finance sub-committee received the outline of the report with gratitude, and concurred with the continued use of the same structure, which was well received by central committee in earlier meetings.

The recommendation:

2) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee **require** that the report of the executive committee be completed by the leadership of the central committee.*

was approved by consensus.

11.3 Financial report 2021 (Doc. No. 29)

In 2021, WCC reported total income of CHF 39.9 million, total expenditure of CHF 22 million, expenditure of CHF 19.3 million and a net increase in funds and reserves of CHF 2.7 million.

Contributions income totalled CHF 16.1 million, increased by CHF 1.2 million compared to 2020. The finance sub-committee expressed gratitude to the member churches and ecumenical partners who sustained or increased their individual contributions to support the Council in the continued challenging circumstances of the pandemic.

While total income was fairly close to the revised budget at CHF 22 million, expenditure was about CHF 4.9 million under the revised budget. A net reduction in funds and reserves of CHF 1.8 million had been authorised in the revised budget 2021, while, as noted above, an increase of CHF 2.7 million was reported.

One principal reason for the increase in funds and reserves was an unexpected credit to tax expense. In 2020, out of prudence, tax provisions were recognised at CHF 2.4 million, for 2019 and 2020, related to land sales. Effectively, those provisions were shown to be rather too prudent, when in early 2022, the tax authorities confirmed that a right of set off of seven prior years of losses would be allowed in assessing the liability. As a result, tax charges totalled CHF 0.6 million only, for 2019 and 2020. A provision of CHF 0.5 million was retained for the 2021 tax year. The net adjustment to the provision resulted in a credit to tax expense of CHF 1.3 million in 2021.

The general reserves closed at CHF 7.5 million (31.12.20: CHF 7 million) after transfer of CHF

0.5 million to the Designated Fund for the Assembly.

The Financial Report 2021 was approved and authorised for issue on 28 April 2022, further to the recommendation of the audit committee, and on the decision of the leadership of the finance sub-committee, to whom executive committee delegated authority for this action in November 2021. The financial statements 2021 were published on the WCC website together with the activities appendix.

The recommendation:

3) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that the executive committee adopt the Financial Report 2021.*

was approved by consensus.

11.4 Comprehensive report of the auditors (Doc. No. 30)

The committee reviewed the comprehensive report of the auditors, noting the following:

- The auditors identified four "audit risk areas", meaning areas for particular attention during the audit process, because the impact of errors or misjudgement in these areas could have material impact on the financial statements. The areas were:
    - revenue recognition;
    - compliance of the financial statements with the Swiss law;
    - going concern principle; and
    - management override of controls.

- A special focus was placed in the 2021 audit cycle on the ERP migration, and tax provisions.

- The auditors confirmed that the going concern basis used for the preparation of the financial statements was appropriate, based on strong general reserves, sufficient cash balances and cash flow forecasts for 2022, including assembly;

- The auditors reported that they successfully tested the ERP migration. Their review was comprehensive and included the review of the project data migration strategy and outcomes, validation of the set-up, integrations post "go-live" and assessment of the users' training.

- They made three recommendations as a result of the ERP migration assessment: to remove super users' functionalities for three users; remove users' access promptly on the date of departure; and segregate production from development environment. Two out of three recommendations have been implemented as of the date of this report, while one remaining issue will be addressed by the end of 2022.

The recommendation:

4) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee **receive** the auditor's comprehensive report to executive committee.*

was approved by consensus.

11.5 Report of the audit committee (Doc. No. 28)

The sub-committee received with gratitude the report of the audit committee, and studied in particular the auditors' questionnaire to "those charged with governance", included at appendix 1 to Doc. No. 28.

The questions concerned how governance exercises oversight over management's processes for identifying and responding to fraud risk.

The sub-committee noted there was one case of confirmed fraud case, with a small loss of CHF 115, perpetrated by an implementing partner, and a second case of suspected fraud, under investigation, with an exposure of CHF 5,000. Both cases were identified internally and concerned operations in Africa.

The sub-committee noted that the auditors had increased their fee by about 30%, or CHF 25,000, for the year 2020, compared to the fee quoted of CHF 79,000, and had announced an anticipated increase for the year 2021. The finance sub-committee supported the audit committee in its close supervision on the matter of increased audit fees, and their justification, noting that the previous auditors had maintained a steady fee, based on their original quote, over a ten-year period.

The recommendations:

5) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee:*
   - *(i)* ***appoint*** *KPMG as auditors for 2022, as proposed in the report of the audit committee;*
   - *(ii)* ***take note*** *of the requirement to appoint two members of the new executive committee to the audit committee in late October 2022, in order that the responsibilities of governance in supervising the audit planning for 2022 can be duly exercised; and*
   - *(iii)* ***require*** *that the conclusion on the case of suspected fraud be reported at the next meeting.*

were approved by consensus.

11.6 Assembly financial forecast (Doc. No. 27)

The sub-committee noted several updates for the assembly forecast.

The recommendation:

6) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee:*
   - ***Receive*** *the assembly forecast for all periods, as proposed in Doc. No. 27, noting that the forecast is balanced, and includes a contingency of CHF 600,000.*

was approved by consensus.

11.7 Financial monitoring (Doc. No. 27)

The finance sub-committee heard reports on:

a) financial results for March 2022 compared to budget;
b) performance against outcome indicators set in the *WCC financial strategy 2018-2021;*
c) the view to planning 2023;

d) income monitoring, compared to milestones in the income development strategy and an approach to the new membership contributions plan; and
e) an update on the ERP implementation

An investment review is normally conducted at each meeting, and was not included within the monitoring report.

(a) Financial results for March 2022 compared to budget
At 31 March, total income was reported at CHF 8.2 million; total expenditure at CHF 7 million; and a resultant net increase in funds of CHF 1.2 million was recognised. Direct expenditure of CHF 2 million for the assembly was reported in the first quarter, being principally the recognition of deposits and advance payments made in 2021.

The sub-committee noted with concern the adverse currency impacts now anticipated in 2022, estimated at CHF 500,000, which would require action in adjustments to expenditure plans in 2022.

(b) Performance against outcome indicators in the WCC financial strategy 2018-2021
Three matters were highlighted in particular from the review:

(i) The number of member churches making membership contributions in 2021 totalled 198 (57% of member churches), increased by 42 compared with 2020 (156 member churches contributing). While the increased number might also be anticipated in the year before an assembly, this gesture of solidarity was recognised with gratitude, in such challenging times.
(ii) In 2021, the Bossey hotel and conference centre reported a small operating profit, following the implementation of partial closure of premises. While a net deficit was reported at CHF 0.3 million after depreciation, there was an improvement of over CHF 0.5 million compared with 2020, as a result of the strategies implemented.
(iii) At the date of report preparation, 78/96 (81%) of staff based in Switzerland had received an appraisal for 2020. Given focused objectives for the assembly in 2022, and the need to re-assess the appraisal process itself, it was decided not to launch the process in 2022 for 2021, but to relaunch with a renewed approach in 2023. Efforts would also be made to ensure that all staff had an appraisal for either 2020 or 2021 by the end of this year.

(c) View to planning 2023
The finance sub-committee supported the approach adopted in the outline *Programme Funds Profile 2023* in Doc No 27, at CHF 15.8 million total programme income (2021 actual: CHF 14.15 million; 2022 budget: CHF 16.25 million). The sub-committee noted that the budget for 2023 would be developed for review and approval by the new executive committee in November 2022.

(d) Monitoring of objectives for income development 2018-2021; and approach to the new membership contributions plan
The sub-committee received the report with gratitude, and also heard an oral report on the draft Pre-assembly Programme Evaluation Report (Doc No 8), which highlighted the quality

of responses to the survey, and the call for "closer collaboration and more communication with the member churches", as well as a focused regional approach to fostering relations.

(e) Update on the ERP process
The sub-committee received the update on the ERP process, highlighting steps to be completed this year, including the expense reporting module, and automated interface for the Bossey hotel and conference centre.

The recommendations:

7) *The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee:*
   - a) ***require** that a forecasting process with appropriate expenditure adjustments be implemented during June 2022;*
   - b) ***continue** to monitor the implementation of an appropriate and consistent appraisal process, noting that a new approach is to be launched in 2023;*
   - c) ***require** that an investment review is to be presented at the next meeting of executive committee;*
   - d) ***express** deep appreciation to the German host churches for their collaboration in the preparation of the assembly, and not least with regard to the introduction and preparation leading to the grants approved by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the assembly; and*
   - e) ***support** the directions for the development of the new membership contributions plan for 2023-2030, founded on experiences over the last eight-year period, while incorporating new methods and content in communication.*

were approved by consensus.

11.8 Reports of the steering committee, April 2022, and Transaction review process for Green Village (Doc. Nos. 31 and 32)

The finance sub-committee, which benefits from significant overlap in membership with the steering committee, recognised the extent of the work currently in process, as the sale of the Kyoto land and building are under preparation.

The decisions taken by executive committee on 3 May, following a period of consultation by electronic means, from April 26 to that date, include the acceptance of the revised binding offer of 14 April 2022 from SL. In addition, it is clarified that the sale may take place only when a list of conditions have been duly addressed.

The WCC staff team, with the support of advisors, including the WCC lawyer, are to report back to the steering committee following the satisfactory outcome of a number of points of negotiation, in order that a recommendation to proceed to signature can be issued by the steering committee.

There is expectation that the transaction will take place in June, with a financial plan indicating generation of CHF 23 million for the WCC before tax, and, at this stage, there is no expectation that a bridging loan will be required.

The outcome from the sale would cover loan reimbursements, and included proceeds to meet rental costs in Kyoto, from 2024-2027. The level of sale would not provide sufficient capital for the investment planned in the Lima building and for the Ecumenical Centre renovation.

The finance sub-committee received the Transaction Review Process for Green Village (Doc. No. 32) noting that it was in its 9th edition, having been presented regularly to executive committee since 2018.

The finance sub-committee noted that the document had assisted in understanding and anticipating the different stages leading to transactions, both for Montreal and Kyoto. Specifically, it allowed a tracking of the responsibilities of the steering committee, and of executive committee. It was noted that it presented a useful record of accomplishments and open points, which would be of use in the coming period of governance transition.

The recommendations

*8) The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee **require** that:*

a) work proceed with fund-raising with foundations in Geneva for the Ecumenical Centre renovation during this year;

b) a process for encounter between the outgoing steering committee, and incoming steering committee be considered, as part of governance process in the transition period, noting that there should be no passage of time in which there is no appointed steering committee for the project; and

c) the Transaction Review Process document be further updated with a view of project milestones over the next two years, highlighting responsibilities of the steering committee, and responsibilities of executive committee, serving as a guideline for the governance role in the project.

were approved by consensus.

11.9 Discussion: agenda of the assembly finance policy committee

The agenda of the assembly finance policy committee will be proposed by the appointed moderator for the committee, based on the mandate of the committee.

At the last assembly, the main tasks of the Assembly Finance Committee are to:

a) Review the World Council of Churches finances since Porto Alegre, covering income trends, programme direct and staff costs, infrastructure direct and staff costs, capital expenditure and major building works at the Ecumenical Centre and the Ecumenical Institute, pension fund;
b) Provide assembly delegates with an understanding of WCC's financial profile and views on perspectives for the future period;
c) Recommend financial policy priorities to be addressed by central committee."

The report of the assembly finance committee served as a guideline for the new central committee in 2014. It was observed that the finance sub-committee had not specifically reported to executive committee during these last years the status of actions taken in response to tenth assembly recommendations made in 2013.

The finance sub-committee notes that, with respect to continuity in financial oversight and carrying forward through the various levels of governance — including response to the directives and guidance from the assembly finance committee of each assembly — the recent introduction of rotation on the executive committee poses an additional challenge. The members of the finance policy committee of the central committee and the finance sub-committee of the executive committee will need to be particularly attentive to assuming these fiduciary responsibilities.

Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul noted that the finance sub-committee of the executive committee, where the primary fiduciary responsibility is lodged, had not implemented a process of listing indicators following the 10th Assembly in Busan and that the process of measuring progress against those indicators had not been followed up. In June, at the meeting of the assembly leadership, attention should be paid to continuity from assembly to assembly. This should be applied to all committees, but especially to finance committee.

The recommendation:

*9) The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee:*

- ***require** that, as background and preparation for the assembly, and in the light of the scheduled training for the assembly committee leadership, a status report be shared at the next executive committee meeting in June 2022 on recommendations issued by the 10th Assembly committees.*

was approved by consensus.

11.10 Other matters

The sub-committee received the report on follow up to prior decisions (Doc. No. 26), noting that, with one exception, open matters were addressed at this meeting, or were otherwise highlighted in the report.

Revision of investment guidelines are in progress with the WCC's banks, following review with the finance sub-committee in November 2021.

In accordance with the WCC Rules:

> "The leadership of the finance sub-committee may act on financial matters as specifically authorised by the executive committee between meetings, reporting back to the executive committee."

The finance sub-committee notes that a report on the status of actions taken with regard to prior decisions has been a useful tool in conducting its work.

The recommendations:

*10) The finance sub-committee **recommends** that executive committee:*

*a) **authorise** the leadership of the finance sub-committee:*

- *to confirm the finalised investment guidelines for the general fund and the endowment fund, as formulations are under completion with banks, following work conducted in prior meetings of the finance sub-committee; and*

- *to monitor the outcome of the financial forecast 2022, as noted above at point 7 (i).*

b) ***require*** *that a report on the status of actions taken with regard to prior decisions on finance, including decisions from this meeting, be presented at the executive committee in Karlsruhe.*

were approved by consensus.

The full report of the finance sub-committee was received by consensus.

The Moderator, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, observed that a lot of work was done in the area of finances and therefore expressed her appreciation to the leadership, members and staff of the finance sub-committee.

The moderator closed the meeting with prayer and a benediction.

APPENDIX – Participants List

Dr Agnes ABUOM, Anglican Church of Kenya
Bishop Mary Ann SWENSON, United Methodist Church
Fr Prof. Dr Ioan SAUCA, World Council of Churches

Rev. Dr Festus Ambe ASANA, Presbyterian Church in Cameroon
H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken AYKAZIAN, Armenian Apostolic Church (Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin)
Rev. Samson Olasupo Adeniyi AYOKUNLE, Nigerian Baptist Convention
Rev. Dr Hyunju BAE, Presbyterian Church of Korea
Bishop Petra BOSSE-HUBER, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (part time)
Ms Emily Jane EVANS, Uniting Church in Australia
Mrs Anne GLYNN-MACKOUL, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East
Archpriest Mikhail GOUNDIAEV, Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)
Rev. Karl JOHNSON, Jamaica Baptist Union
Rev. Rainer KIEFER, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (substitute part time)
Rev. Martina Viktorie KOPECKÁ, Czechoslovak Hussite Church
H.E. Metropolitan Serafim KYKOTIS, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa
Rev. Everdith Yaritza LANDRAU, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rev. Dr Manhong LIN, China Christian Council
H.E. Metropolitan Zachariah Mar NICHOLOVOS, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr NIFON OF TARGOVISTE, Romanian Orthodox Church
Bishop Simo PEURA, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Bishop Rex R. B. REYES, Jr., Episcopal Church in the Philippines
Rev. Karin VAN DEN BROEKE, Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Apologies
Rev. Cora Luisa ANTONIO MATAMOROS, Iglesia Morava en Nicaragua
H.E. Dr Archbishop Abune AREGAWI, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
Mr Rudelmar BUENO DE FARIA, Advisor, ACT Alliance
Rev. Taaroanui MARAEA, Église protestante Maohi
Bishop John F. WHITE, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Staff Leadership Group
Mr Douglas L. CHIAL, Director, Office of the General Secretariat
Ms Elaine DYKES, Director, Finance
Ms Marianne EJDERSTEN, Director, Communications
Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo PHIRI, Deputy General Secretary
Mr Peter PROVE, CCIA Director
Rev. Nathan WILSON, Income Monitoring and Development Manager

Staff
Ms Catherine CHRIST-TAHA, Governing Bodies and Conference Office
Mr Georges LEMOPOULOS, Consensus Consultant

APPENDIX 2 – Nominations

Member church delegations

Region	Church Name	Title	First Name	Last Name	Capacity	Church family	G	Y	O	IP	EDAN
Africa	Eglise protestante africaine	Mr	Jules Perigord Martin Mamia	MFOM	Delegate	Reformed	M	No	No	No	No
Africa	Igreja Presbiteriana de Moçambique	Rev.	Juscelino Inacio	MONDLANE	Delegate	Reformed	M	No	Yes	No	No
Africa	Igreja Presbiteriana de Moçambique	Mrs	Berid Luisa	MACHAVA	Advisor	Reformed	F	No	No	No	No
Africa	Presbyterian Church of Africa	Rev.	Mzukisi	FALENI	Delegate	Presbyterian	M	No	Yes	Yes	No
Africa	Presbyterian Church of Africa	Rev.	George	MOKABO	Delegate	Presbyterian	M	No	Yes	Yes	No
Africa	The First African Church Mission	Most Revd Dr	Sunday Oludare	MATILUKURO	Delegate	African Instituted	M	No	Yes	No	No
Africa	The First African Church Mission	Mrs	Mercy Oluwatoyin	MATILUKURO	Delegate	African Instituted	F	No	No	No	No
Africa	The First African Church Mission	Rt Revd	Ezekiel Olukayode	SHOKOYA	Advisor	African Instituted	M	No	Yes	No	No
Europe	Reformierte Christliche Kirche in Serbien	Rev.	Mária	BESZÉDES	Delegate	Reformed	F	No	Yes	No	No
Latin America	Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña	Rev.	Santiago	RODRIGUEZ	Delegate	Lutheran	M	No	Yes	No	No

Additional delegate suggestions

Region	Church Name	Title	First Name	Last Name	Capacity	Church family	G	Y	O	IP	EDAN
Europe	Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania	Fr	Grigor	PELUSHI	Additional Delegate	Orthodox Eastern	M	No	Yes	No	No
Europe	Romanian Orthodox Church	Mr	George	VASILACHE	Additional Delegate	Orthodox Eastern	M	Yes	No	No	No
Middle East	Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia)	Ms	Seta	HADESHIAN	Additional Delegate	Orthodox Oriental	F	No	No	No	No

Middle East	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem	Ms	Hilda	ATTALLAH	Additional Delegate	Orthodox Eastern	F	Yes	No	No	No
Middle East	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem	Ms	Maria	LUBAT	Additional Delegate	Orthodox Eastern	F	Yes	No	No	No
Middle East	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem	Mr	Yohanna	MUSLEH	Additional Delegate	Orthodox Eastern	M	Yes	No	No	No

Assembly committee membership

Finance Committee													
	Role	**Region**	**Church or Ecumenical Organisation**	**Title**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Capacity**	**Church Family**	**G**	**O**	**Y**	**IP**	**EDAN**
16 Delegates	Moderator	Europe	Armenian Apostolic Church (Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin)	Ms	Lara	Setrakian	Delegate	Oriental Orthodox	F	L	No	No	No
	Rapporteur	Caribbean	Jamaica Baptist Union	Rev.	Merlyn	Hyde-Riley	Delegate	Baptist	F	O	No	No	No
	Member	Africa					Delegate						
Targets	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AF 2	Member	Asia					Delegate						
AS 2	Member	Asia					Delegate						
CA 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
EU 2	Member	Europe					Delegate						
LA 1	Member	Latin America					Delegate						
NA 2	Member	Middle East					Delegate						
ME 1	Member	North America					Delegate						
PA 1	Member	North America					Delegate						
Orthodox 4	Member	Pacific					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Any Family					
	Advisor						Del. Rep						

5 Advisors Specialized Ministries	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						

essage Committee													
	Role	**Region**	**Church or Ecumenical Organisation**	**Title**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Capacity**	**Church Family**	**G**	**O**	**Y**	**IP**	**EDAN**
16 Delegates	Moderator	Europe	Church of Wales	Rt. Rev. Bishop	Gregory	Cameron	Delegate	Anglican	M	O	No	No	No
	Rapporteur	Africa	Presbyterian Church of East Africa	Rev.	Lucy	Waweru	Delegate	Reformed	F	O	No	No	No
	Member	Africa					Delegate						
Targets	Member	Asia					Delegate						
AF 2	Member	Asia					Delegate						
AS 2	Member	Caribbean					Delegate						
CA 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
EU 2	Member	Latin America					Delegate						
LA 1	Member	Middle East					Delegate						
NA 2	Member	North America					Delegate						
ME 1	Member	North America					Delegate						
PA 1	Member	Pacific					Delegate						
Orthodox 4	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
1 Advisor RCC	Advisor		Roman Catholic Church				Del. Obs						

Nominations Committee													
	Role	**Region**	**Church or Ecumenical Organisation**	**Title**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Capacity**	**Church Family**	**G**	**O**	**Y**	**IP**	**EDAN**
25 Delegates	Moderator	North America	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East	Mrs	Ann	Glynn Mackoul	Delegate	Eastern Orthodox	F	L	No	No	No
	Rapporteur	Asia	Episcopal Church in the Philippines	Bishop	Rex R.B.	Reyes	Delegate	Anglican	M	O	No	No	No
	Member	Africa					Delegate						
Targets	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AF 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AS 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
CA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
EU 4	Member	Asia					Delegate						
LA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
NA 3	Member	Caribbean					Delegate						
ME 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
PA 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
Orthodox 6	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	Latin America					Delegate						
	Member	North America					Delegate						
	Member	North America					Delegate						
	Member	Middle East					Delegate						
	Member	Pacific					Delegate						
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
No advisors	Member	TBD					Delegate						

Policy Reference Committee													
	Role	**Region**	**Church or Ecumenical Organisation**	**Title**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Capacity**	**Church Family**	**G**	**O**	**Y**	**IP**	**EDAN**
25 Delegates	Moderator	Europe	Church of Cyprus	Met. Dr		Vasilios of Constantia	Delegate	Eastern Orthodox	M	O	No	No	No
	Rapporteur	Asia	China Christian Council	Rev. Dr	Ge	Wen	Delegate	Post denominational	M	O	No	No	No
	Member	Africa					Delegate						
Targets	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AF 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AS 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
CA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
EU 4	Member	Asia					Delegate						
LA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
NA 3	Member	Caribbean					Delegate						
ME 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
PA 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
Orthodox 6	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	L. America					Delegate						
	Member	Middle East					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	Pacific					Delegate						
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate						
5 Advisors Christian World Communions	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Obs	Roman Cath.					

Programme Guidelines Committee													
	Role	**Region**	**Church or Ecumenical Organisation**	**Title**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Capacity**	**Church Family**	**G**	**O**	**Y**	**IP**	**EDAN**
25 Delegates	Moderator	Europe	Protestant Church in the Netherlands	Rev.	Karin	van den Broeke	Delegate	United and Uniting	F	O	No	No	No
	Rapporteur	North America	United Church of Christ	Rev. Dr	Karen Georgia	Thompson	Delegate	United and Uniting	F	O	No	No	No
	Member	Africa					Delegate						
Targets	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AF 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AS 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
CA 1	Member	Africa					Delegate						
EU 4	Member	Asia					Delegate						
LA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
NA 3	Member	Asia					Delegate						
ME 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
PA 1	Member	Caribbean					Delegate						
Orthodox 6	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	L. America					Delegate						
	Member	Middle East					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	Pacific					Delegate						
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
5 Advisors REO, NCC, IEO, SM,	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						

CWC (Del. Reps)	Advisor						Del. Rep						

Public Issues Committee													
	Role	**Region**	**Church or Ecumenical Organisation**	**Title**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Capacity**	**Church Family**	**G**	**O**	**Y**	**IP**	**EDAN**
25 members	Moderator	Europe	Romanian Orthodox Church	Met. Prof. Dr		Nifon of Targoviste	Delegate	Eastern Orthodox	M	O	No	No	No
Delegates only	Rapporteur	Middle East	Armenian Apostolic Church Holy See of Cilicia	Dr	Nora	Bayrakdrarian-Kabakian	Delegate	Oriental Orthodox	F	L	No	No	No
	Member	Africa					Delegate						
Regional Target	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AF 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
AS 4	Member	Africa					Delegate						
CA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
EU 4	Member	Asia					Delegate						
LA 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
ME 1	Member	Asia					Delegate						
NA 3	Member	Caribbean					Delegate						
PA 1	Member	Europe					Delegate						
Orthodox 6	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	Europe					Delegate						
	Member	L. America					Delegate						
	Member	Middle East					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	N. America					Delegate						
	Member	Pacific					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate	Orthodox					
	Member	TBD					Delegate						
5 Advisors	Advisor						Del. Rep						

Del. Reps Del. Obs Advisors	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						
	Advisor						Del. Rep						

Advisors to strengthen the voice of women, youth, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples

Region	Church/Organization	Title	First Name	Last Name	Capacity	Proposed by	G	Y	O	IP	EDAN
NA	United Church of Christ	Rev.	Kelli	PARRISH-LUCAS	Advisor to the assembly	EDAN	F	No	Yes	No	Yes
AF	Reformed Church in Zimbabwe	Rev.	Mary	CHIPOKA ZENDA	Advisor to the assembly	EDAN	F	No	Yes	No	Yes
EU	Church of England	Rev.	John	NAUDE	Advisor to the assembly	EDAN	M	No	Yes	No	Yes
AS	Allahabad Bible Seminary	Dr	Samuel	GEORGE	Advisor to the assembly	EDAN	M	No	No	No	Yes
ME	Maronite Church in Lebanon	Mr	Fadi	El Habbi	Advisor to the assembly	EDAN	M	No	No	No	Yes
LA	Anglican Communion	Mr	Paulo Ueti	BARASIOLI	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	M	No	No	No	No
LA	YMCA	Ms	Andrea Mercedes	QUESADA VALDIVEZO	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	F	No	No	No	No
NA	United Church of Canada	Ms	Jean	DORCAS GORDON	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	F	No	No	No	No
AF	University of Western Cape	Dr	Jonathan	JODAMUS	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	M	No	No	No	No
AF	United Church in Zambia	Mr	Daimon	MUKANDAWIRE	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	M	No	No	No	No
AS	Aboak Disom Santalia Council of Churches	Mr	Joy	TUDU	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	M	No	No	Yes	No
NA	Episcopal Church, USA	Mr	Logan Xavier	POLLOCK	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	M	No	No	Yes	No
LA	Indigenous Peoples Reference Group	Mr	Juan Carlos	CHAVEZ QUISPE	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	M	No	No	Yes	No
PA	Pacific Conference of Churches	Ms	Frances	NAMOUMOU	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	F	No	No	Yes	No
EU	Church of Westphalia	Ms	Alena	HOFER	Advisor to the assembly	Youth EYG	F	Yes	No	No	No
AS	Reformed Evangelical Church	Mr	Abel Kristofel	ARUAN	Advisor to the assembly	Youth EYG	M	Yes	No	No	No
EU	Romanian Orthodox Church	Mr	Iuliu-Marius	MORARIU	Advisor to the assembly	Youth EYG	M	Yes	No	No	No
ME	WSCF- Middle East	Ms	Yasmine K. A.	RISHMAWI	Advisor to the assembly	Youth EYG	F	Yes	No	No	No
LA	Anglican Church of Brazil	Ms	Mariana	JORGE MADEIROS BATISTA DA SILVA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth EYG	F	No	No	No	No
AF	Presbyterian Church of Ghana	Mrs	Gertrude	FEFOAME	Advisor to the assembly	EDAN	F	No	Yes	No	Yes

NA	United Church of Christ	Rev. Dr	Deenabandhu	MANCHALA	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	M	No	Yes	No	No
PA	Institute for Mission and Research, Suva, Fiji	Mr	Aisake	CASIMIRA	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	M	No	Yes	No	No
NA	United Methodist Church	Rev.	Glen Chebon	KERNELL	Advisor to the assembly	IPN	M	No	No	Yes	No
EU	Methodist Church of Mexico	Ms	Lani	ANAYA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	No	No	No	No
ME	Coptic Orthodox Church	Mr	Ramy	HANNA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	No	No	No	No
AS	Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church	Rev.	Sajeev	KOSHY	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	No	Yes	No	No
EU	World YMCA	Mr	Johannes	ROEDER	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	Yes	No
AF	Desmond Tutu Centre	Prof	Srojini	NADAR	Advisor to the assembly	JCMW	F	No	No	No	No
EU	Swedish Bible Society	Rev. Dr	Anders	GORANZEN	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	M	No	Yes	No	No
AS	Uniting Women in Faith	Ms	Sung-Ok	KIM	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	M	No	No	No	No
AF	Moravian Church in South Africa	Rev. Dr	Joy Faith	KRONEMBURG	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	F	No	Yes	No	No
AS	Christian Conference of Asia	Rev. Dr	Grace	MOON	Advisor to the assembly	JCWM	F	No	Yes	No	No
PA	Pacific Conference of Churches	Mr	Shane	AIULU	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	Yes	No
PA	Pacific Conference of Churches	Ms	Olivia	BARO	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	Yes	No
LA	Mennonite Church of Colombia	Ms	Lorena Catalina	BONILLA GARCIA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
AS	Church of South India	Mr	Jenis	DHAS	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	No	No
EU	Bread for the World - Jugend	Ms	Dorina	DIESING	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
EU	WSCF	Ms	Sarah	EULITZ	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
LA	Methodist Church of Brazil	Ms	Larissa	GARCIA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
Asia	World YWCA	Ms	Nirmala	GUNUNG	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
EU	EYCE/Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Ms	Anne	HEIKKINEN	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
EU	World YMCA	Mr	Tobias	KNOERICH	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	No	No
PA	Free Wesleyan Church on Tonga	Mr	Timote	LOMU	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	Yes	No
EU	Bread for the World – Jugend	Ms	Paula	LOTTMANN	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
EU	Protestant Church in Wurttenberg	Ms	Barbara	MATT	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	Yes	No	No
AF	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania	Mr	Bernard Glibert	MUSHI	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	Yes	No	No
EU	Pontifical Council for Christian Unity	Sister	Sandrine	NOURRY	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	No	No

EU	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany	Ms	Katharina	REIS	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	Yes	No	No
PA	Methodist Church in Fiji	Mr	Wilfer	RIGAMOTO	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	No	No
AF	All African Conference of Churches	Mr	Collins	SHAVA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	No	No
AF	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania	Mr	Arnold Julius	SWAI	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	No	No
PA	Maohi Protestant Church	Ms	Tamatoa	TEPUHIARII	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	M	Yes	No	No	No
PA	Anglican Diocese of Polynesia	Mr	Luke	TUKANA	Advisor to the assembly	Youth Desk	F	Yes	No	Yes	No